Impact of Historical Preservation on the Free Library of Philadelphia: Its Neighborhoods and Communities

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty

of

Drexel University

by

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in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

of

Master of Science in Science, Technology & Society

August 2010

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Kathryn Steen, my thesis advisor, for all of her time and extreme patience in the process. She has been very understanding and helpful throughout the entire process and has taught me a lot about Philadelphia, research, and writing.

I would also like to thank the Preservation Alliance and Ben Leech for their time and guidance and allowing for me to intern for a part of the summer.

Additionally, I would like to thank the Free Library of Philadelphia's Extensions office and Chris Kottcamp for her help in coordinating with the library branches. And, finally, I would like to thank the librarians of the Haddington, Holmesburg, Logan, and Kingsessing libraries for their time and insight.

Table of Contents

LIST OF TABLES

ABSTRACT
Impact of Historical Preservation on the Free Library of Philadelphia: Its Neighborhoods and Communities
Karen Frances Miller

This thesis investigates the impact of historical register designation on four branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia and their communities: Haddington, Holmesburg, Kingsessing and Logan. Andrew Carnegie contributed $40 million to construct 1,689 free public libraries across the United States, which are still known as Carnegie libraries. The design and construction of each library was a collaborative community effort, making the library a place for the general public, in contrast to the elitist subscription libraries of the early 1900s. Many Carnegie libraries are today in need of repair and renovations. As the buildings aged, some people supported plans to demolish the libraries to create anew rather than renovate or reuse. Historical preservation is a viable alternative, and these buildings hold an important place in their communities and their history. Philadelphia has recently faced a crisis that threatened to close four Carnegie Libraries. Located in economically depressed regions, these communities are heavily reliant on their libraries as places of safety, education, entertainment, and technology. The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia nominated these four to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, which the Philadelphia Historic Commission accepted by the Philadelphia Historical

Commission in 2009. These four libraries permit a study of the impact of historic preservation on inner-city neighborhoods.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Rising from a working class Scottish-American background to the second richest man in the world, Andrew Carnegie was the epitome of the American dream. Carnegie gained the majority of his riches through his Carnegie Steel Company, which he sold for $480 million in 1901 to J.P. Morgan, who then created U.S. Steel. At the age of sixty-six, Carnegie retired and focused on philanthropy. Carnegie explained his philanthropy as a wish to give back so others could have the success he had. In his essay "The Gospel of Wealth," he explained the dangers of uneven distribution of wealth and argued it was in the best interest of the rich to share their wealth with their fellow citizens. Through his philanthropic efforts, he helped to create museums, schools, performing arts centers, recreation centers, parks and libraries.

Carnegie contributed millions to the construction of free public libraries, still known across the country as Carnegie libraries. Each library was very much a collaborative effort, involving local grass-roots movements, Carnegie and his secretary, and the local or state government. Carnegie required local assistance and planning to demonstrate that the communities in which he was entrusting his money would be able to use the money effectively and create a long-lasting library. In many cases this helped bring communities together, rallying to stock the empty shelves of a newly constructed library or to raise funds for ongoing maintenance. The kind of

community involvement varied, but the community was always an integral part of the process.

Libraries have remained important contributors to their communities, and in difficult times communities have rallied around their libraries to keep them standing and functioning. Beginning in 1883, Andrew Carnegie allocated funds to create 1,698 libraries across the country, many of which are today in need of repair and renovations. As the buildings aged, some people supported plans to demolish the libraries to create anew rather than renovate or reuse. This leaves a significant part of local and national history in jeopardy; the establishment of a permanent public free library system in the United States is an enduring legacy of Carnegie's donations. Before that, library systems had a less secure existence. In many cases, libraries rented storefront property, or the homes of generous individuals served as public libraries. This left the library system unstable and relatively untethered to the local communities and neighborhoods. [1]

In addition to providing money, Carnegie's grant process helped to shape today's library system. With his advisors, he created a standardized plan of libraries that rooted public libraries to the community. He demanded that book stacks be freely accessible to patrons rather than closed stacks open only to the librarian, which had been the norm. By allowing patrons to

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[1] Andrew Carnegie funded a total of 2,509 libraries across the world, and 1,679 were in the United States. George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), 3.

peruse the aisles of books on their own, Carnegie helped to open the possibilities for the American library system.[2]

Libraries and communities have a symbiotic relationship; libraries are dependent on its users, and the community on its library. A library gives its community or neighborhood opportunities for leisure, education and culture. Residents can learn new skills and enhance their education, helping them to future jobs and success. Libraries also help to create a sense of community and to provide unity as a public space for a neighborhood. Because of this symbiotic relationship, libraries have relied on the community in times of need.[3]

When economic crises occur, libraries look toward the community and its residents, as was the case in Philadelphia during the Great Depression. In 1937, a *Philadelphia Bulletin* journalist noted that "during the last seven years, rigid economies, due to the late depression and its aftermath, have of necessity greatly curtailed appropriations made by Council to the Free Library for the purpose of books."[4] Economic hardships such as this threatened the existence of libraries across the country. When threats to tear down Carnegie Libraries occur, it not only reduces a community's access to education, it also takes away community's history.

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[2] Theodore, Wesley Koch, *A Book of Carnegie Libraries* (Charleston, SC: Nabu Press, 2010; orig. 1917), 212.

[3] "Libraries Need Friends," Accessed September 9, http://www.squidoo.com/FOL-ideas.

[4] "Police to Conduct Door-to-Door Drive for Library Books," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, October 12, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

I argue that today's society is best served by preserving these libraries, allowing us to remember the past and to acknowledge the historical significance of the public library system and Carnegie's role in building it. As preservationist Arthur Ziegler put it in 1974 during another economic crisis,

> architectural decay and human decay go hand in hand. One helps to cause as well as feed upon the other. Reduce one and you deter the other. Never work on one without attending to the other, because without the improvement of both, neither can survive.[5]

Historic preservation holds a crucial place in society, creating links between our past and present. Without such buildings to remind us where our ancestors came from and what they have accomplished, how can we effectively move forward to better society? Whether in text, images, or digital files, as a society we need to tell the story of our heritage for ourselves and for future generations. Buildings, tangible memorials to our past, offer living history that create meaningful bonds to a larger humanity. But the libraries are at risk as they age, and groups of preservationists and community members around the country have noticed the deterioration and disappearance of Carnegie Libraries. As some of them have discussed,

> In our current digital age, libraries everywhere are faced with redefining how they will serve their communities. This leaves the legacy of libraries Andrew Carnegie donated to communities around the world in a precarious position, their

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[5] Arthur P. Ziegler Jr, *Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas: A Manual of Practice* (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Ober Park Associates, 1974), 11.

> older historic buildings being abandoned, sold off, and demolished at an increasing rate.[6]

Some are responding to preserve these historical sites. Like the process required in the creation of these libraries, the battle to protect them from destruction has been entwined with the local communities. Local community groups and preservationist groups have been on the forefront of the movement, which has helped revitalize community ties.[7] Libraries that have been protected by local or national register status have brought community and neighborhood pride.

In Philadelphia, the threat of closure of libraries, including four Carnegie locations, raised other issues, such as the role of historic preservation in economically depressed areas. Can such areas derive benefit from historic preservation? Historical designation of a building may uplift the spirit of a neighborhood that sees little economic aid. With the help of community grass-roots efforts, the four libraries remained open and received protection by the Philadelphia Register of Historical Places. In this thesis I begin to explore the impact of the historical designation on the four neighborhoods.

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[6] "Preserving Carnegie Libraries Worldwide." Accessed August 21, 2010. http://carnegielibraries.net/. A group of preservationists devoted to preserving Carnegie Libraries across the country as libraries created the website. They meet annually at the national preservation conference held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

[7] Coalition to Save the Libraries, December 30, 2008, (8:51 p.m.), "If One Voice Can Change a Room," *Coalition to Save the Libraries Blog,* Accessed September 1, 2010. http://coalitiontosavethelibraries.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2008-12-31T02%3A01%3A00-08%3A00&max-results=7

Gentrification is one aspect of historic preservation feared by communities, as it mainly aids the economic investors and pushes away residents. Rather than saving the cultural heritage, it saves architecture alone. As one Philadelphia journalist wrote in 2005,

> historic buildings are our neighborhoods' greatest assets for revitalization. By destroying them, we deprive our poorest neighborhoods of valuable opportunities for current residents and business owners.[8]

I believe the best form of preservation is one that brings a positive impact to the residents of the community, and libraries are in a unique position to help the neighborhoods while preserving their past.

In this thesis, I will follow the history of Andrew Carnegie libraries from their beginning to today, focusing on the four branches in Philadelphia that faced closure in 2008. Their protection by the local register reflects the positive effects of preservation, specifically in poor urban areas where preservation is not as common. These four libraries can act as models for inner-city historic preservation.

Early evidence suggests that the historical designations of these four Carnegie libraries in Philadelphia had a beneficial impact on the community. For example, following the designation, attendance increased at the library branches, and another branch experienced a new interest in local history.

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[8] Gregory Heller, "Why Historic Preservation Efforts are Vital in Low-Income Neighborhoods,"*Philadelphia City Paper,* May 19, 2005. Accessed on July 17, 2010. http://citypaper.net/articles/2005-05-19/cityspace.shtml.

Although it is hard to distinguish whether the positive benefits came from historical designation or from the publicity about the possible closures, I hypothesize that if future historical designations of Carnegie libraries include extensive publicity regarding the nomination and history of the library, positive results similar to 2008 will occur. The historical designation of Carnegie libraries is an effective way of saving both the library building and its history while "renew[ing] the human spirit" in underserved urban areas.[9]

While writing this thesis, I interned with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. During the internship I helped at the office with research assistance. This enabled me to learn more about historical research specific to Philadelphia, including obtaining deeds and property information. Through the internship I became more aware of the process of historical nominations and designations and of the workings of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. During this time I also completed a nomination for the West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library (now known as the Walnut Street West Branch) at 40th and Walnut Streets. This nomination is in Appendix F. About half of the nomination came from my own work and the other half from the Preservation Alliance's efforts.[10] I would like to thank the

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[9] Ziegler, *Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas,* 11.

[10] Specifically, I worked on section five, the boundary description, section six, the overall description, and half of section seven, the statement of significance. Under section seven, statement of significance, the Preservation

Preservation Alliance, and Ben Leech specifically, for helping make the internship possible and opening my eyes to preservation efforts in Philadelphia.

Alliance provided the information regarding “Andrew Carnegie’s Library Program” and “The Carnegie Grant in Philadelphia” from the previous four nominations submitted. I made only slight edits to these two sections. All photographs came from HABS NO. PA-6765.

CHAPTER 2: ANDREW CARNEGIE AND HIS LIBRARIES

This chapter looks at Andrew Carnegie's model of philanthropy and how it helped create the library system we know today. He was very careful in his decisions about who and where to give his money for the creation of libraries. In particular, he wished to aid only communities that had begun the journey on their own. Therefore, a majority of neighborhoods already had a local library, although many struggled for life. Libraries in the early 1900s were still early in their development, and the way in which Andrew Carnegie administered his grants helped establish the functions of a library. Bringing the local community into the grant application led to a close connection between the residents and the library. This local interaction between the community and the institutions is one focus of this thesis. Carnegie established a connection between the two early on, and the relationship grew and evolved over the years and is still relevant today.

2.1 Andrew Carnegie

Born November 25, 1835, in Scotland, Andrew Carnegie flourished as an American industrialist and philanthropist. In 1848 when he was only thirteen, his family emigrated from Scotland to Allegheny, Pennsylvania. His mother's sisters lived in Pittsburgh and had convinced her to move to America.[11] At his arrival in the United States, Andrew Carnegie got a job as a

[11] Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 22.

bobbin boy making $1.20 per hour. In 1849 he became a messenger boy for a telegraph company and worked his way up to telegrapher.

In 1853, when Carnegie was eighteen, Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad hired him as his private secretary and telegrapher, allowing Carnegie to see much of the inner workings of a railroad company. In 1859 Scott promoted Carnegie to superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Using his wages and bank loans, Carnegie invested in the railroad industry, including in the Woodruff Sleeping Car Company. This investment was an even more lucrative endeavor for him than his position at the Pennsylvania Railroad. Later in 1861 he invested in Pennsylvania oil.

By 1865, Carnegie had accumulated a substantial amount of wealth, and he left the Pennsylvania Railroad to found the Keystone Bridge Company. With this company Carnegie began to reinvent the railroad industry as iron railroad bridges replaced wooden ones, a fairly new concept.[12]

Using Henry Bessemer's new steel process, Carnegie created his first steel plant, the Edgar Thomas Works in Braddock, PA. At this time he also bought out many smaller companies that aided in the steel process, such as mills and coke production plants, and merged these components into one large company: Carnegie Steel.[13] As Carnegie bought out many of his competitors, Carnegie Steel became a near monopoly. In 1901 Carnegie sold

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[12] Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries,* 9.

[13] Harold Livesay, *Andrew Carnegie and the Rise of Big Business* (New York: Harper Collins, 1975), 187-188.

Carnegie Steel to J.P. Morgan and used the money to support his philanthropic efforts.

2.2 Carnegie's Philanthropy

Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy began in the 1870s, but his donations to support public libraries occurred primarily 1901 to 1919.[14] After his death in 1919, his foundations, the Carnegie Corporation and Carnegie Foundation, continued his philanthropic legacy. Carnegie wished to donate a large portion of his revenue from the Carnegie Steel Company in Pittsburgh. Almost as famous as Carnegie's donations were his pronouncements on philanthropy. In the essay "Gospel of Wealth," Carnegie articulated the changes in manufacturing, the drastic differences between rich and poor, and the responsibilities of the wealthy. He said, "man should labor, not for himself alone, but in and for a brotherhood of his fellows, and share with them all in common."[15] Carnegie saw three ways for a person to deal with personal wealth: 1) leave it to family, 2) leave it to the public after death, or 3) donate it before death. Carnegie believed that donating money during life was better than bequeathing money in a will because the donor could instill hope, confidence, and pride in the recipient. Carnegie also mentioned growing estate taxes as a reason to give away money while

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[14] Livesay, *Andrew Carnegie and the Rise of Big Business*, 142.

[15] Andrew Carnegie, *The Gospel of Wealth, and Other Timely Essays* (New York: The Century Co., 1901), 6.

alive.[16] Whatever the degree of his sincerity in philosophizing, Carnegie set out to help humanity during his lifetime. Carnegie first mentioned at age thirty-three[17] his desire to carry out philanthropy, and he later wrote "The Gospel of Wealth" at fifty-four, but he did not focus entirely on his philanthropy until retirement at age sixty-six.[18] Historian Abigail Van Slyck notes, among others, that Carnegie's story is many times exaggerated. He was a poor Scottish-American boy, but his poverty was embellished in his and other biographies to give a greater rags-to-riches "myth."[19] Nonetheless, this thesis will not look into Carnegie's motivations but, rather, the legacy of his library buildings today.

Carnegie was very particular in the ways he spent his money to help the common good. He chose to be more philanthropic than charitable; that is, he wished to help those who had already begun to help themselves. When receiving requests for aid in the form of a library or community center or such, Carnegie made sure the community had already begun the creation of one on their own. He thought that without local initiative, drive, and

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[16] Carnegie noted the State of Pennsylvania's 10% estate tax. He expected the British Parliament, too, would increase such taxes. Carnegie, *The Gospel of Wealth*, 11.

[17] In a letter found after Carnegie's death was a glimpse of his plan to donate money. Carnegie had written: "Thirty-three and income of $50,000 per annum! By this time two years I can so arrange all my business as to secure at least $50,000 per annum. Beyond this never earn – make not effort to increase but spend the surplus each year for benevolent purposes. Cast aside business forever except for others." Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries, 10.*

[18] Abigail Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), 9.

[19] Van Slyck, *Free to All*, 9.

motivation, a large sum of money would not drastically alter the situation. Carnegie saw donations to individuals or groups without a plan or prior experience as a waste. As Carnegie put it,

> the main consideration should be to help those who will help themselves; to provide part of the means by which those who desire to improve may do so; to give those who desire to rise the aids by which they may rise; to assist, but rarely or never to do all.

He expected that local aid would accompany his gift or donation. For library donations, Carnegie provided funds for the building's construction, but he relied on the community to provide the books in addition to the monthly maintenance expenses. Carnegie also found this the most sustainable means for creating performing arts centers, community centers, and museums. Many of these institutions still operate and work well, suggesting he developed an effective model of philanthropy. [20]

Carnegie placed his donations into two phases. Carnegie called his first phase from 1886 to 1896 "retail," when he donated funds creating community and art centers near his Carnegie industries. After 1896, in his second phase of philanthropy, "wholesale," he expanded his donations to all across the country. Carnegie prompted other wealthy individuals to look nationally and internationally to address issues they could help resolve. During this time Carnegie agreed on funds with communities, how much he

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[20] Van Slyck, *Free to All*, 10-11, 134.

and the residents would provide, and Carnegie's secretary James Bertram worked out the majority of remaining details.[21]

2.3 Carnegie Libraries

Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy focused on libraries, museums, parks, and community and recreation centers because he believed they best contributed to self-improvement. "What the improver of the race must endeavor," he wrote, "is to reach those who have the divine spark ever so feebly developed, that it may be strengthened and grow."[22] Carnegie believed he could reach those individuals largely by funding public spaces. In his "Gospel of Wealth" and other writings, Carnegie told two stories of men and their libraries, which changed his life; he credited them for his motivation and rise. Carnegie mentioned many times that he was the son of a library-founding weaver, and he recounted how the Scottish weavers pooled their money together to purchase books. They took daily turns reading passages to the others while they worked. The books later became the first circulating library of the town.[23] In "Gospel of Wealth," Carnegie also mentioned Colonel James Anderson, who opened a library for boys in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. In his remembrance of Colonel Anderson, Carnegie vowed early on that,

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[21] Mostly Pittsburgh and other areas where his steel company was located. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 13, 87.

[22] Carnegie, *Gospel of Wealth,* 36.

[23] Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 12.

> if ever wealth came to me, that it should be used to establish free libraries, that other boys may receive opportunities similar to those for which we were indebted to that noble man.[24]

Carngie's first donation was a pool to his hometown, Dunfermline, Scotland, in 1873. He later donated a library to Dunfermline in 1881. In 1886 he began his library donations in the United States.[25]

In the beginning, Carnegie's library grants process had many flaws, leading Carnegie to alter his methodology to be more stringent. Carnegie required that libraries have open stacks, children's sections as well as an adult section, and a lecture or meeting room. In Carnegie's first "retail" phase of donations, the planning and design of the libraries was done entirely by the community, and Carnegie funded the plans. However, he found this was not very successful because many times architects designed overly ornate buildings without sufficient consideration of library functions.[26] Once libraries were in use, Carnegie's secretary James Bertram contacted librarians to determine what features of the building were advantageous. In this way Bertram could determine effective layouts of library buildings, and he compiled "Notes on Erection of Library Buildings with Type Plans" to distribute to community planners receiving Carnegie grants. He continually edited these notes. Bertram also reviewed preliminary library plans to make sure Carnegie's desires were met. Specifically, Carnegie wished to create

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[24] Carnegie, *Gospel of Wealth,* 28.
[25] Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 11, 14.
[26] Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Manual of Public Benefactions of Andrew Carnegie* (Nabu Press, 2010; orig. 1919), 298.

adequate space in the building for a children's library. He found children were not a major focus of libraries in the late 1800s, especially as majority of libraries were subscription libraries meant for the elite of society.[27]

Carnegie wished to move away from this notion of elite libraries and instead create libraries with opportunities for both adults and children of the general public. He and Bertram encouraged the use of a T-shape plan because it easily divided into three sections. Each flange of the T held its own purpose: one side devoted to children, the other to adults, and the third was used as general reading space and for additional books. Also, to allow the library to be used for community functions, a good plan included a lyceum or lecture hall for meetings. This became the model Carnegie library layout repeated all over the country, with children's and adult's sections on the first floor and the lyceum, services, and storage in the basement.[28]

Another way Carnegie brought the function of libraries to the general public was to require open stacks, which gave more library space to the public. In early grants Carnegie allowed the libraries to continue functioning as they had before, with book stacks controlled behind the librarian's desk. To obtain a book, patrons requested it from the librarian, who then searched in the stacks. However, "planning mechanisms that promoted the close scrutiny of each reader seemed largely unnecessary, and were increasingly

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[27] Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 201.

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acknowledged as counterproductive."[29] This does not mean that freely accessible stacks for the patrons did not exist, but they were rare and unusual. Carnegie and Bertram disliked that limited book access gave more space to the librarians than to the patrons. Consequently, in later grants, Carnegie required open stacks, freely accessible by patrons. This model persists in public libraries today with an "open plan…with bookshelves lining its perimeter wall."[30] This plan also reduced the square footage needed for book storage, and therefore limited the cost of construction, making another reason for this design. Patrons' easy access of books also gave people a greater feeling of ownership for their library. For security reasons, the designs placed the librarian desk centrally for clear line of sight to all areas of the library. The librarian's desk was placed directly in front of the door to watch those exiting in communities where librarians were wary of open stacks, rather than the center of the T-plan. (This is the case for the Logan library in Philadelphia and some others.) Carnegie's mandate led to widespread adoption of this layout and shaped the library system into what it is today. Overall, Carnegie donated more than $40 million for the creation of the 1,689 libraries in the United States.[31]

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[29] Van Slyck, *Free to All*, 122.

[30] Van Slyck, *Free to All*, 122.

[31] Carnegie spent $56,162,622 for libraries across the "English-speaking" world. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries,* 3.

2.3.1 Philadelphia

In the late 19th century Carnegie's endowments for public libraries had become very well known, and head librarian John Thompson requested a grant for the Free Library of Philadelphia. Carnegie responded with a letter on January 3, 1903, saying,

> I beg to say that it would give me great pleasure to offer the City of Philadelphia what I have done for New York, provided always that Philadelphia will do what New York has done for itself.[32]

The Free Library of Philadelphia had requested this money to create a new central city library. Instead, Carnegie explained he would provide $1.5 million for the creation of thirty *branch* libraries. Carnegie said,

> we find in Pittsburgh that the branch libraries are the most popular institution of all, and, I think, the most useful. A great Central Library is, of course, needed, but even before it in usefulness, I place the local libraries, which reach the masses of the people.[33]

Following this letter, the Free Library of Philadelphia drafted a contract between the City of Philadelphia, Free Library trustees, and Andrew Carnegie. On January 11, 1904, this contract committed the city to provide sites for library branches and funds for maintenance. Only then did the city determine communities and sites for these

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[32] Andrew Carnegie, Letter to John Thompson and Free Library of Philadelphia, January 3, 1903, Main Branch, Free Library Director's Vault.

[33] Andrew Carnegie, Copy of Letter to John Thompson and Free Library of Philadelphia, January 3, 1903, Accessed July, 26, 2010. Main Branch, Free Library Director's Vault. (Original Filed with Provident Trust Co.)

branches. At news of Carnegie's assistance, donations of plots poured in from wealthy residents, as did petitions from communities requesting a library for their neighborhood. Philadelphia constructed these libraries from 1905 to 1930, but costs increased over time, and the funds only provided for twenty-five branches rather than the originally discussed thirty.

The new twenty-five branches joined fourteen existing Free Library branches. Of these fourteen, only two were in city-owned buildings, a dramatic increase. With the assistance of Dr. William Pepper, the Free Library of Philadelphia began in 1891. Over the next decade, the Free Library established, thirteen other branches, but they existed mainly in storefronts and other rented spaces. The library staff at this time was mainly volunteers. With Carnegie's gift to Philadelphia, the Free Library of Philadelphia became a distinctly more established system.[34]

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[34] Free Library of Philadelphia, *Annual Report 1903*, Free Library of Philadelphia Main Branch, Cities P53-1154.

CHAPTER 3: ROLE OF LIBRARIES

Andrew Carnegie wanted his libraries to reach the masses and adapt to their needs, the reason he donated his money mainly for library branches rather than for central or main libraries. Carnegie believed that libraries should address the needs of the general public's rather than just desires of the rich. His donations shifted the way Americans viewed libraries. But libraries designed to meet a broader population's needs had to adapt to social change, including technological change. In addition to technological change, periods of economic recession placed great strains on libraries, and the libraries leaned on the community to survive. This chapter explores some of these key changes libraries made in the face of technological change and economic recessions. Their responses showed the symbiotic relationship between the library and its community at selected historical points.

3.1 Changing Roles and Redefining Periods

Technological Change and the Library's Response

The 1970s was a period when the Free Library actively sought to adapt to new technology and social values. With an increase of alternative leisure activities, use of the library decreased, especially among young adults. To meet the Free Library's mission -- education and aid for the public -- the library's leaders had to reevaluate ways to reach the youth. In one attempt,

the library launched the Fabulous Freebie campaign to revitalize the image of the library. The campaign reminded individuals that they could have fun at the library without hurting their pockets and budgets. The campaign's planners intended to change the public image of the library from dull and serious to a fun and energetic place to spend time -- at no cost.[35]

To make the library a "fun" place, the librarians believed they needed to obtain more modern materials to compete with the vinyl record, cassette tape, and television as ways to spend leisure time. People watched television or listened to music rather than walking to the library to read books or take out materials. The librarians aimed to use their own new technologies to recapture their audience; the library system sought new ways to be relevant. Budgets previously allotted for books, pamphlets, and newspapers changed to include newer forms of media. Bringing televisions to the library seemed a logical choice to increase patrons, but this was not economically feasible. Instead, librarians bought records, cassettes, video recordings, and filmstrips, hoping the public recognized them as new and exciting methods of education and leisure. This successfully made the library a place for entertainment beyond reading, and it was possible for parents to educate their children with interesting new forms of technology.

Having the library equipped with newer technologies, surprised librarians noticed another effect of television had on library use. Ironically,

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[35] Bill Mandel, "The Old Image is Gone… Now it's the Fabulous Freebie," *Philadelphia Inquirer,* March 4, 1975, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

with less reading time available, readers chose more quality literature, forcing libraries to buy more classics for their shelves. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* in particular, was rarely available in the library due to such high demand.[36] During times of technological change, the library found ways to stay committed to the community. In unexpected ways, the library adapted and stayed committed to the community by supplying different books in addition to providing new technology.

Computer technologies became more accessible in the late 1980s as they became less expensive. And then faster and cheaper internet services became more widely available. One of the greatest educational resources available on the internet is information databases. These first became widely used in colleges and university libraries, but public libraries also saw the advantages. Many information databases require subscriptions and can be very costly; for example the *New York Times* Information Bank cost $1.83 per minute.[37] The Free Library of Philadelphia was early to allow patron access to these databases, but limited its use due to cost. In 1980 patrons received five minutes of free use, and then paid $2 per additional minute. Such services were available in larger regional branches and the central library in the 1980s and then in all branches in the mid 1990s.

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[36] Miscellaneous Folder, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[37] "Stumped for an Answer? Let Your Library Help," *Kiplinger's Personal Finance,* February 1980, 21.

As more and more information became available through the internet, libraries across the country saw a growing need to purchase computers for patron use. Again, as in the 1970s, libraries faced dramatic technological changes as new internet research options arose. In 1995 the Free Library of Philadelphia began fundraising for their "Changing Lives" campaign, intending to renovate library branches and bring information technologies to all branches of the library. Through a variety of grants and other fundraising, the library reached its goal of $50 million and renovated many branches in 1997. This brought computers and the internet to many underserved areas of Philadelphia. The Free Library of Philadelphia began a pilot program educating youth and families on computer literacy and internet resources at the Ramonita G. Rodriguez Branch's Computer Training Lab. Two computer lab assistants consulted with the community to develop computer training and to determine the kinds of needed workshops.[38] Similar workshops are now available at all branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia. A Logan librarian noted that computer literacy is one of the great opportunities at the Free Library. The possibilities of computers and the internet are endless, she mentioned, but only for those who know how to use it.[39] The library is one of

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[38] Lillian Marrero and Sam Weinstein, "The Free Library of Philadelphia Technology Demonstration Project," 80-92, In *Poor People and Library Services*, Karen M. Venturella ed. (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 1998), 81.

[39] Logan Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 26, 2010.

the few sources of computer education for residents of economically depressed communities.

Computer use and computer education at libraries has become one of the largest services of the Free Library. As residents have realized the availability of computer education classes and the free internet use, computer use has been constantly growing. In 2003 the Free Library of Philadelphia noted that "41% of households lack home computers, meaning that the 700 public access computers at the Free Library are critical to bridging the "digital divide."[40] As a Holmesburg librarian noted, the waiting period on Mondays for a computer may be as long as three hours, because it is the only branch open in the region. After theft of about $12,000 worth of computer equipment from the Cecil B. Moore branch in 2010, the library was unable to afford replacement because of the economic recession and tight budgets. Some residents in a position to do so, even offered their own personal computers, but the library replaced the computers with older models from storage.[41] In July, 2010, the Free Library of Philadelphia became a partial recipient of a $6.4 million federal grant from the American

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[40] Free Library of Philadelphia, "Free Library of Philadelphia Receives National Award for Library and Museum Services," October 22, 2003, Accessed September 10, 2010, http://libwww.freelibrary.org/PressRel/Pressrel.cfm?id=339.

[41]Andrew Wagner and Josh Buzi, "North Philadelphia Library Computers Back Online After Theft," February 7, 2010, Philadelphia Neighborhoods: A Publication of Temple's Multimedia Urban Reporting Lab, Accessed September 10, 2010, http://sct.temple.edu/blogs/murl/2010/02/07/north-philadelphia-stolen-library-computers-back-online/.

Recovery and Reinvestment Act to improve computer centers of Philadelphia. The grant will double the Free Library of Philadelphia's computers; currently the fifty-four branches have eight hundred computers and had 1.3 million computer reservations in 2009.[42] To adapt to the digital age, the Free Library of Philadelphia integrated its system digitally and has dramatically increased computers and training availability to patrons and will continue to do so in the future.

3.2 Social Change and the Community Connection

Economic Recession

During hard economic times, cities like Philadelphia look to cut their budget, which poses one of the greatest challenges to libraries. Hundreds of city-run programs and establishments undergo renewed evaluation in a search for savings, and this leads to intense political fighting over shrinking resources. As the city attempts to assess the value of each program, statistical data becomes very important to demonstrate attendance and usage of programs. Programs face decreased budgets, entirely reorganized budgets, and even elimination. The Free Library of Philadelphia has fifty-

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[42] Brian James Kirk, July 6, 2010 (8:30 a.m.), article on Technically Philly, "Broadband Stimulus Grant to Provide $6.4 Million for Public Computer Centers," *Technically Philly Blog,* Accessed September 10, 2010, http://technicallyphilly.com/2010/07/06/broadband-stimulus-grant-to-provide-6-4-million-for-public-computer-centers#more-10437.

four branches, making it a significant portion of the Philadelphia city budget and a major target for cost-cutting.

Statistical data about a library seems very harsh, cold, and unable to reflect the cultural and emotional value to a neighborhood. Data definitely gives comprehensive information about attendance and cost, but many times the value an individual gains from a city program cannot be seen in the numbers. For example, attendance at a Free Library branch may be low, but those who attend may have more life-fulfilling experiences than others. The emotional gains from city programs are difficult to measure but need to be protected as budgets shrink.

There have been a couple of significant periods of economic hardship for the Free Library of Philadelphia, in the 1930s and following 2007. In each of these economic downturns, conditions caused a revival of the library and community integration. Library use increased and so did the community support and involvement in the library. Studying the experience of the 1930s brings historical context to the impact on the Free Library of Philadelphia from the most recent economic crisis. The library system retains its community support, despite the poor economy.

The 1930s and the Great Depression

In 1937, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Free Library reported that general daily use, including loans and in library reading, wore out 35,000 to 40,000 volumes, and sometimes even up to 60,000, each year.[43] With such a great number of books lost to wear and tear each year, and stressed by the limited funding appropriations, the Free Library needed of hundreds of thousands of books during the Great Depression.[44] "Since 1931 appropriations have been so drastically reduced that the Library has found it impossible to replace the volumes worn out and also impossible to buy copies of sufficient new and important books as they appear."[45] Not only did the economic situation not allow the replacement of many books, an increased number of users borrowed and wore out books even more than in normal years. With so many unemployed, "leisure [was] enforced on many thousands of people in this city," many of whom turned to the library.[46]

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[43] "Free Library Heads Praise Public For Generous Response". *Philadelphia Bulletin*, November 6, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[44] "Police Give Books and Collect More," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, November 6, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[45] "Free Library Heads Praise Public For Generous Response," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, November 6, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[46] "Police to Conduct Door-to-Door Drive for Library Books," *The Philadelphia Record,* October 12, 1937. Box, 85, Mounted Clippings File Urban Archives, Temple University.

From 1927 to 1937, 500,000 books were lost through wear. Large-scale drives to replenish the book stacks began in 1935.[47]

To combat the funding shortfalls, the library first turned to members of the community. Initially, librarians sent 2,000 letters to residents known to have their own book collections; this brought 3,000 books.[48] While a start, targeting a small population of Philadelphia could not meet such a great demand for new books. To reach a broader audience, the Free Library leadership in 1935 began public radio announcements explaining the need for books and soliciting residents to donate their used or new books to library branches. Schools and children's organizations responded with drives; ten thousand Boy Scouts canvassed the city hoping to collect 50,000 books.[49] These efforts were just the beginning of a large book collection for the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Book drives took many forms and drew in organizers from different segments of the population. The community responded with their time, help, and books to replenish the Free Library of Philadelphia's bookshelves. *The Philadelphia Record* organized the GIVE-A-BOOK campaign, a citywide book drive to enhance the drive already begun by the Free Library. *The*

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[47] "Book Appeal Nets 15,186 Volumes in First Twelve Days," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, September 28, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[48] "Free Library Heads Praise Public For Generous Response," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, November 6, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[49] "Scouts Canvass for Books," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, November 7, 1936. Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

Philadelphia Record donated office space and advertisements in their papers. The organizers hoped to receive 100,000 books in the GIVE-A-BOOK campaign and selected February 12, 1937 as the campaign's end date, choosing a date with symbolic significance: the birthday of Abraham Lincoln whose education depended heavily on books given or loaned to him.[50] Books were collected at the *Record* Building, library branches, and YMCAs. Within the first twelve days of the campaign, the library received 15,186 volumes. The Bonwit Teller department store also donated their truck for the pickup of books at private homes.[51] People called *The Record* office, indicating the number of books they would donate, and the Bonwit Teller truck picked them up.[52] Philadelphians responded with so many calls that the truck could not handle all of the donations. Many were inspired by the generosity of *The Record* and Bonwit bank and helped the drive. The city government was unable to increase the budget of the Free Library, but Mayor Samuel Davis Wilson announced that police would to spend a day canvassing for books to help *The Record's* drive.[53] The police canvassing, called GIVE-A-BOOK-DAY, helped to collect books that the Bonwit Teller truck left behind. That day

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[50] "Children Asked To Donate Books: Public School Pupils Urged to Give 100,000 Volumes to Free Library," *The Philadelphia Record*, September 28, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[51] "Book Appeal Nets 15,186 Volumes in First Twelve Days," *Philadelphia Bulletin*, September 28, 1937, Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

[52]"Book Appeal Nets 15,186 Volumes in First Twelve Days," *The Philadelphia Record,* September 28, 1937. Box 85, Mounted Clippings File, Urban Archives, Temple University.

4,300 policemen from 43 districts collected 22,498 books. Collectively, these efforts brought five times as many books to the Free Library of Philadelphia than it could purchase.

Economic Recession of 2007

The 1930s crisis was very similar to the library system's budget woes in 2008. Facing budget cuts, Mayor Michael Nutter investigated closing eleven library branches, and the community and city responded with an outcry of support for the library. Although no one could replenish the city's budget, they showed their support in the forms of letters, canvassing for signatures, holding community meetings, and providing publicity. The Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia also helped by nominating four of the library buildings for historic designation. Such attention from non-profit organizations, including the Friends of the Library and the Preservation Alliance, along with grass-roots efforts, pushed the city to keep the libraries open. Once again, the community helped the library continue its education and enlightenment.

As in the 1930s, bad economic times resulted in greater use of the libraries. In 2009, the Free Library Annual Report stated, "this year we witnessed the indisputable importance of the Free Library of Philadelphia to

our community."[54] Book selection changed from leisure reading to an increase in how-to and advice books as patrons sought help to find jobs and to skimp on expenses. The library offered education on resume building and job-hunting through workshops. Most notably, computer usage expanded; job-searching databases were widely used. Data from four of the branches on the verge of closure appear in Table 1.[55] From 2005 to 2010 computer usage nearly doubled and saw the most dramatic increase in 2007 and 2008 as the recession worsened.

TABLE 1: Computer Users from 2005-2010

BRANCH	**COMPUTER USERS PER HOUR FROM 2005-2010**					
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
HADDINGTON	4	5	6	7	6	7
LOGAN	4	11	6	7	7	8
KINGSESSING	5	6	8	8	8	9
HOLMESBURG	4	6	8	9	8	9

[54] Free Library of Philadelphia, "Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009," Accessed July, 30, 2010. http://www.freelibrary.org/annualreport/annualreport09/annualreport2009.pdf.

[55] To obtain these values, I normalized the statistics provided by the Free Library of Philadelphia to address fluctuations in operation hours each year. These values show the rounded number of users per hour by year. "Branch Cumulative YTD Statistics for 2001-2010," Provided by the Free Library of Philadelphia's Extensions Office of the Central Library.

CHAPTER 4: PRESERVATION OF CARNEGIE LIBRARIES

In the past two chapters, I have emphasized the close relationship between the community and library, with the community supporting the library in times of need. After many years of deterioration, some communities face losing their Carnegie libraries. This chapter considers that relationship in the context of protecting Carnegie Libraries through historical preservation and historic register designation.

The City of Philadelphia scheduled to close eleven branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia on January 1, 2009. According to the Free Library, they chose these eleven because of their proximity to other branches.[56] All of the chosen branches are in "economically depressed parts of the city."[57] Four of the branches scheduled to close were typical T-plan Carnegie libraries; these were the Haddington and Kingsessing of West Philadelphia, Logan of the Northwest, and Holmesburg of the Northeast. To save the historically significant buildings, the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia nominated these four buildings to the local Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Librarians and communities hoped these

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[56] Holmesburg Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 24, 2010.

[57] HannahJ, November 6, 2008, (2:27 p.m.) "Guess Which Library Branches They Want to Close?" *Young Philly Politics*, Accessed, July 17, 2010. http://youngphillypolitics.com/guess_which_library_branches_they_want_close.

nominations would save the branches from closing. In the end, the Free Library of Philadelphia avoided shutting down the eleven branches, through rolling closure of branches, and the Philadelphia Register accepted the four Carnegie branches in January 2009, the first Carnegie libraries to receive the designation.

Through interviews with librarians at each of the four branches, I investigated the impact of the historical designation of the buildings. The four libraries provide a case study to explore the effect of historical preservation efforts in underserved urban neighborhoods. More specifically, it is a look into how preservation efforts can help the residents of a community. In many instances historical preservation comes with gentrification, forcing poor residents to relocate; gentrification with historic preservation helps to save the built environment, but it fails to save the cultural heritage of the community. This study focuses on community interaction and collaboration in preservation efforts. Investigating four buildings with the same function in neighborhoods of relatively similar demographics allowed useful comparisons. As the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia plans to nominate the remaining Carnegie libraries of Philadelphia, this study gives insight on the impact of their actions.

4.1 Impact of Preservation

Arthur Ziegler, who has helped with preservation in inner-city Pittsburgh, lists four reasons for preservation: 1) large-scale demolition is

not feasible, 2) preservation increases confidence, 3) it gives aesthetic pleasure, 4) it provides economic benefits in the form of tax credits and tourism, and 5) it unifies communities. The remainder of this chapter looks at efforts of Carnegie Libraries across the country and in Philadelphia to address their impact on communities around them.[58]

4.2 Fate of Carnegie Libraries

Andrew Carnegie donations built 1,689 libraries in the United States, and the buildings are aging. Current building codes require architects and engineers to design buildings for a lifespan or service life of 50 years. Using that yardstick, the Carnegie library buildings, some dating to 1898, have been remarkably durable. But Carnegie libraries have certainly required repairs and renovations, and the challenge of maintaining them in good condition will only grow in the future.

Historic designation of a Carnegie library building is one way to access additional funding for renovations, as allocated library budgets sometimes are not enough. Because local governments fund libraries, they face competition from other spending priorities, which can push library repairs and renovations to later dates. Even in good times, the process of obtaining funds for renovations can be a long bureaucratic process, and libraries slowly deteriorate during this waiting period, essentially diminishing the buildings' architectural richness. To counteract this, grants are set up at the local, state

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[58] Ziegler, *Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas*, 10-22.

and national level for historic properties.[59] Funding alone can provide incentives to seek historic designation, but as is the case with historic preservation more generally, supporters of the Carnegie Libraries often first need to convince decision-makers that saving and renovating historic buildings is important and economically sensible. Decision-makers may believe the property is more valuable as a location for new modern construction. This mindset generally considers the initial cost rather than the lifetime cost of a building. Planners often neglect to consider environmental factors related to construction, such as pollution during material harvesting, transportation and construction.[60] Renovation of a building does not require harvesting of nearly as many new raw materials, therefore limiting the environmental impact. This reduction in materials also limits the cost, giving great economic benefit as well. Planner Donovan Rypkema calls historic preservation "the ultimate in recycling." He's also said that one-fourth of the content in landfills is construction debris and that razing a 3,000 square foot building is the equivalent of dumping 1,344,000

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[59] National Trust for Historic Preservation, "Nonprofit Organization and Public Agency Funding," Washington D.C., Accessed September 1, 2010, http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/nonprofit-public-funding.html

[60] Angela Acree Guggemos, Arpad Horvath, and Seppo Junnila, "Life Cycle Assessment of Office Buildings in Europe and the United States," *Journal of Infrastructure Systems: ASCE,* 12 (March 2006): 10.

Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) factor in such components, looking at the building from "cradle to grave." Here the building is a culmination of all the energy put into its components and construction from the time of first material location to the end of its service life.

aluminum cans instead of recycling them.[61] Therefore, it is good for our communities and our pockets to renovate rather than demolish and build anew. Such benefits to preservation are some of the reasons groups have already begun preservation efforts of Carnegie libraries, but many are still in jeopardy. A 1990 survey shows "that fewer than half of Carnegie's buildings remain as libraries, while others had been demolished and significant number converted to other uses."[62]

4.3 Initiatives for Preservation

Across America communities have used the local and or national register as protection from demolition for deteriorating Carnegie libraries. As they are the primary users, librarians and patrons are typically the first to notice a library's disrepair. Historians and preservationists have also noticed the slow loss and deterioration of Carnegie libraries. One strategy to protect a Carnegie Library from demolition is to place the building on a local register or landmark list; "historic designation [can] protect against property fluctuations," because the local board must be notified and approve all renovations or alterations and plans for demolition before proceeding. [63]

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[61] Scott Huddleston, "Saving Buildings 'Ultimate' Recycling," *San Antonio Express-News*, September 1, 2009, A9.

[62] Michael Dewe, *Planning Public Library Buildings: Concepts and Issues for the Librarian* (England: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2006), 147.

[63] Geraldine A. Fisher, "The Gentrification of Manayunk" (M.S. thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 2006), 74.

Registers exist at the neighborhood, city, town, state, and federal levels, each level providing an increased degree of protection.[64]

For the first time in 2004, states collaborated on ways to preserve America's Carnegie libraries. The National Trust for Historic Preservation held a meeting at the end of its annual convention, and several people from across the country spoke about their experience with preservation and their attempts at the preservation of Carnegie libraries. At this discussion, the group of twenty-two agreed that they felt the most effective way to preserve Carnegie libraries was to preserve them as libraries. Keeping the buildings for their original intended function helps to preserve the interior and exterior of the building. In some areas, local registers protect only the exteriors, and a building's owner could still gut the entire interior, despite register status. To the attendees of the 2004 Conference, preserving the façade of a building is not enough because the interiors, including the furniture and details, are vital to the integrity and significance of the building. If the building's interior is destroyed, not only is much of the architectural detail lost, but also an understanding of the building's layout in its historical context. In addition, once altered, the library building is more likely to be demolished rather than reused again. If preserved as a library, the layout and spacing of the building remains close to the same. While some change is necessary to make the building thrive as a library, such change is less

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[64] Nathan Weinberg, *Preservation in American Towns and Cities* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1979), 25.

dramatic than other potential occupants would implement.[65] To educate a larger audience on the dismal fate of many Carnegie Libraries, this group held a public session in the 2006 annual preservation conference. One hundred people attended, showing a rapid increase in response to the issue since 2004. It is believed such educational sessions and other local issues helped spur the movement of many areas such as Philadelphia and New York to nominate their Carnegie libraries to registers, both local and national.

With the greatest number of Carnegie libraries in the United States, New York and Philadelphia have definitely heard the call and have launched efforts to protect their libraries. With Carnegie's grant of $5.2 million, the largest he gave, New York City built sixty-seven Carnegie Libraries. New York residents have seen the slow loss and decay of their libraries throughout the city. Damage has included historic transoms filled with HVAC systems and original doors replaced with heavier industrial doors.[66]

The level of care for the libraries differs from borough to borough; Brooklyn has recently undertaken restoration of some of its libraries.[67] The Historic Districts Council of New York is a non-profit similar to the Preservation Alliance in Philadelphia. It has worked in conjunction with the Landmarks Preservation Board to protect thirteen of the standing Carnegie libraries in New York. Of the original sixty-seven libraries, fifty-seven are

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[66] Nadezhda Williams, Preservation Associate, Historic Districts Council, New York City, phone interview by author, July 7, 2010.

[67] Nadezhda Williams, Preservation Associate, Historic Districts Council, New York City, phone interview by author, July 7, 2010.

still exist and fifty-four still function as libraries.[68] Two of the library branches have been placed on the National Historic Register.

4.3.1 Philadelphia's Initiative

In 1996, the Preservation Coalition joined the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation to form the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. Both created in 1979, the predecessors found later that their missions were so similar that it was more effective to create one non-profit organization. The Preservation Alliance's mission is to "actively promote the appreciation, protection, and appropriate use and development of the Philadelphia region's historical buildings, communities and landscapes." Since 2002, the Preservation Alliance has focused its work on advocacy programs for the community in which residents can learn of endangered historic properties and how to protect them.[69]

Threats to demolish a building or to "re-use it unsympathetically" are the situations that most often cause the Preservation Alliance to nominate a building; it is mainly a reactionary process. Preservation Alliance officials

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[68] Historic Districts Council, "Campaign to Preserve the Carnegie Libraries," 2007, New York City, NY, Accessed August 21, 2010, http://www.hdc.org/CarnegieLibraries.htm

[69] Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. "Mission." Accessed August 21, 2010. http://www.preservationalliance.com/about/mission.php

wish to be more proactive in the future because they face less opposition in their register nominations if a building's existence isn't under threat.[70]

The Preservation Alliance writes half of the city's nominations for the historical register. Their employees write nominations, but they also contract out to others, especially for larger district nominations. The other half of nominations come from local residents concerned with the fate of a particular building or site. Many appeal to the Preservation Alliance for assistance, whether in reviewing and editing nomination drafts or in gaining advice about the process.

The Philadelphia Preservation Alliance aims to nominate all twenty-four of the existing Carnegie library branch buildings of the city to the Philadelphia Register. The Philadelphia Historical Commission rules on these nominations. Since its creation by a City Council ordinance in 1956, the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) has had the authority to designate properties on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.[71] The Preservation Alliance submitted nominations for the Haddington, Holmesburg, Kingsessing and Logan branches in January 2009. The PHC reviewed the nominations' historical correctness, presented them in public meetings, and added the four libraries to the register June 12, 2009.[72]

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[70] Information regarding the Preservation Alliance in this section comes from conversations with Ben Leech of the Preservation Alliance during the summer of 2010.

[71] Nathan Weinberg, *Preservation in American Towns and Cities,* 68.

[72] Preservation Alliance, "Preservation Matters: The Newsletter of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, Seventh Annual Endangered

Once the register status saved the four buildings at risk, the preservationists asked themselves whether one Carnegie library was more valuable or important than another. The Preservation Alliance takes the position that all the Carnegie Libraries built in Philadelphia have a similar historical significance for the American library system, for the communities in which they were built, for the architecture and design of library buildings, and for their association with a significant figure: Andrew Carnegie. Therefore, they are all worthy of consideration for the local register.[73]

4.4 Philadelphia's Four Protected Libraries and their Communities

The communities of the four protected libraries in Philadelphia reflect larger demographic trends in post-World War II. From 1948 to 1970, Philadelphia experienced an increased movement to the outlying suburbs, and the city's population declined from 2,002,512 in 1950 to 1,927,863 in

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Properties List," Philadelphia, PA, Accessed September 7, 2010, http://www.preservationalliance.com/advocacy/supportingdocs/EndangeredNewsWin10.pdf.

[73] Plans such as creating themed years are underway to help nominate sites prior to demolition threats. Each year would have a designated type of building or era of construction. For example one year could be devoted to theaters, another to libraries and another to cemeteries. The Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission included themed years in their "Agenda for Action: 2006-2011." Each year is given a different type of building or site to nominate for the register. In that way, different types of buildings get equal attention for possible nominations. The Carnegie libraries are an example of such thematic nominations.

1960.[74] Industry, retail, and the tax base followed the population to the suburbs. The migration in particular hurt the large African-American neighborhoods, which were left with fewer job opportunities. The region established transportation systems that allowed suburbanites to get to desired areas of the city easily; timetables for the routes favored the journey of suburban commuters. For residents of the city neighborhoods, the commute to suburbs was costly and took longer because of transfers from trains to buses, trolleys or subways. Philadelphia's express trains for suburban commuters still bypass stops such as North Philadelphia, increasing the cost and hassle in travel to work. Add in high rental prices relative to owning, and these urban neighborhoods continue to drain their residents' income, and many are at or below the poverty line. Such issues affect the four library communities of Kingsessing, Haddington, Logan and Holmesburg.

4.4.1 Kingsessing

The Community

Situated in Southwest Philadelphia, the most southern area of the city, Kingsessing has moved from a middle class to lower middle class neighborhood since its creation. It consists of 2.573 square miles from 53rd to 60th Streets and from Woodland and Baltimore Avenues. Kingessing began

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[74]Clark, Joseph S, Jr., and Dennis J. Clark, "Rally and Relapse, 1948-1968," 601-703, In *Philadelphia, A 300 Year History,* edited by Russell F, Weigley (New York: W. W. Norton & Company Inc., 1982), 668.

as a residential area of privately owned middle class homes, but this changed in the early 1900s with an influx of middle and lower class Irish Catholics.[75] Today it is more than 87 percent African American, and older residences have been split into smaller units. Of the 34,142 residents, 28.4 percent are single mothers and 30.6 percent are below the poverty line. [76]

The Library Branch

The majority of the librarians and staff of the Kingsessing branch have been working there for about five years. They have been able to learn about the community, its needs, and how it relies on the Kingsessing library branch. Many of these librarians even live in the community and feel an attachment to both their library and their neighbors. These librarians witnessed changes that occurred within the community when the city announced closure of their library branch.

The Kingsessing community responded in shock and anger at the closure in 2008. It came unexpectedly, and community members became angry, not only with the city's government but even with the librarians of the libraries, blaming them partially. After the initial shock had subsided, however, the community rallied for their branch rather than just waiting for closing day. The Coalition to Save the Libraries, a group created to help keep

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[75] Free Library of Philadelphia, "Kingsessing Branch: Community Profile," 1980.

[76] Urban Mapping, "Kingsessing Area in Philadelphia," City-Data.com, Accessed September 3, 2010, http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Kingsessing-Philadelphia-PA.html.

open all of the eleven libraries, tried to help the Kingsessing library with petitions. Another community group, called the Friends of the Kingsessing Library, circulated petitions and held community meetings. This group brought together residents from the immediate Kingsessing community to fight for their branch.

As one librarian mentioned, "a lot of people became more interested in the library and vested in it."[77] The community had not realized what they had until it was threatened. The Friends of the Kingsessing Library group is still very active today in supporting programs of the library branch by organizing volunteers. The group worked with the Preservation Alliance of Philadelphia to nominate their library to the register. While those involved expected that the historical designation would reduce the chance of the library closing, no one at the time was aware of the implications of historical designation. They knew little about the limits historical designation has on repairs and renovations; it was of little significance to them. For them, saving the community's library and its public programs mattered most.

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[77] Kingsessing Librarian, interview by the author, Philadelphia, PA, August 24, 2010. I interviewed librarians at each of the four branches to gain their perspective about the impact of historical designation on the library. Librarians see the everday functions, and they notice fluctuations in attendance. To get a broader sense of the community and its interaction with the library, I targeted librarians who were working at the library branch before the events in 2008. This was possible for all but one branch, Haddington, where all employees were relatively new. In all interviews the identity of the librarian is not disclosed for privacy and for compliance with research protocols.

After the announcement of the possible closure, use and attendance at the library increased from 2008 to 2009. Then from 2009 to 2010 computer use went up; computers are already the most used resource in this library branch, and their popularity continues to rise. The recession's high unemployment brought in patrons especially for job applications and resume building, but the increased use of social networking sites by older individuals also accounts for some of the elevation.[78] In the past year the overall attendance of the Kingsessing branch has decreased; the librarians believe this stems from rolling closures affecting the entire Free Library of Philadelphia and not from a decline in interest.

In 2008, when the eleven branches were notified about the closure, the Free Library began to cut library functions in the form of rolling closures. The library system wanted the anticipated closures to be smooth, and they prepared by laying off a number of seasonal and part time employees, leaving the libraries short staffed. On December 30, 2008, just one day before the eleven libraries were to close, Judge Idee Fox ruled that the planned wide-scale library closures were not legal, and since then the library implemented a hiring freeze, meaning the eleven library branches have remained short staffed ever since.[79] For safety reasons, a library branch must have four staff members present to open. The small library branches such as Kingsessing,

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[78] Kingsessing Librarian, Interview by the author, Philadelphia, PA, August 24, 2010.

[79] Norman Older, "Philadelphia Libraries Remain Open, But Staff Cuts Mean Fewer Days," *Library Journal,* January 6, 2010, Accessed September 10, 2010, http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6626723.html.

Logan, Haddington and Holmesburg, typically have only five to six employees, and if two are unable to come to work for reasons such as vacation or sickness, the library must close for that day. Unanticipated circumstances are particularly challenging because it is hard to alert the community, and many find out only when they arrive at the library to see the saddening sign, "we are closed." Available staff rotates among libraries to "spread the pain."[80] When a library faces closure due to shortage, either they close and the staff at that branch is disperses among other branches, or staff from other branches report to that library to keep it open.[81] The library's top administrators intend to distribute the closures evenly among branches and not allow one branch to close significantly more often than another, although it is difficult. Hours closed in 2010 of the four designated branches are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1: Hours Closed in 2010

Branch	Hours Closed in 2010	Equivalent Eight-Hour Days
Haddington	177	22
Logan	99	12
Kingsessing	224	28
Holmesburg	207	26

[80] Logan Librarian, Interview by the author, Philadelphia, PA, August 26, 2010.

[81] Logan Librarian, Interview by the author, Philadelphia, PA, August 26, 2010.

For those who rely on the library on a regular basis for safe shelter, homework assistance, or computer usage, the unexpected closures take an extra toll. Despite the rolling closures, the events of 2008 left the Kingsessing library branch with "a lot more community involvement and greater sense of community ownership" of the library, said one librarian.[82]

4.4.2 Haddington

The Community

Haddington is a section of West Philadelphia from 52nd to 63rd Street and from Chestnut to Girard Street, named for the Haddingtonshire, England, in the 1816 map of Philadelphia.[83] The Haddington area is 1.275 square miles with a mainly African American population of 27,130. Its population density is nearly double Philadelphia's average, and more than half of the housing predates 1939, making it a very crowded and rundown area. Of Haddington residents, 28.1 percent are below the poverty line.[84]

When the Haddington branch first opened in 1912, the area was mainly Italian: 350 Italians and 30 members of the local community club led

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[82] Kingsessing Librarian, Interview by the author, Philadelphia, PA, August 24, 2010.

[83] Free Library of Philadelphia, "Community Profile: Haddington Branch," 1980.

[84] Urban Mapping, "Haddington Area in Philadelphia," City-Data.com, Accessed September 3, 2010, http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Haddington-Philadelphia-PA.html.

the library's dedication.[85] Immigrants to the United States faced discrimination from native-born white Americans. Poor city services in their neighborhood, such as garbage pick-up, exacerbated stereotypes of the "dirty" immigrant. Overcrowding contributed to unsanitary living conditions. Real estate agents often offered them some of the worst properties at high prices. These areas were also the only real estate available to African-Americans moving from the south to north. As more and more African Americans moved into immigrant neighborhoods, they expanded the borders of their neighborhood.[86]

The Library Branch

When threatened with closure in 2008, and then again with its register designation in 2009, the Haddington library received considerable attention in the press, but many residents are still learning about the branch. Neighborhood residents continue to enter the library and mention to librarians that they did not know the building was a library and that it was their first time visiting.[87] The apparent unfamiliarity may be due to the

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[85] "Italians Dedicate New Free Library," *Public Ledger,* April 22, 1919, Accessed July, 26, 2010. Main Branch, Free Library Director's Vault.

[86] Robert E. Foreman, *Black Ghettos, White Ghettos, and Slums* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1971), 26.

[87] In this interview, I intended to learn how the library has changed since the announcement of closure in 2008 and the historical designation of the building. However, all of the employees at this library are relatively new and were not present at the time. Therefore, the interviews show what they have experienced in recent years. Haddington Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 21, 2010.

larger number of renters in the area and consequent turnover. However, the library doesn't retain statistics on first time patrons, so this cannot be verified. In addition, as sociologist Laurence Ross describes, "the relevant community may be different for different people living in the same general locality."[88] This means that, although the library branch is within Haddington proper, some do not see it as part of their community due to personal preferences.

The Haddington librarians believe that one reason people fail to recognize the library is that its location is set back from the street, and they hope new signage will improve their visibility. A sign closer to the building is in the need of repainting. Along with the Haddington Friends of the Free Library, the librarians hope their new sign will not only identify them as a library, but also advertise their designation as a historical site. Ideally, they hope, such recognition will remind the community of its history and prompt others unaware of the library to enter. Ironically, one of the three criteria for designation of the Haddington library was its recognition in the community.

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[88] Laurence H. Ross, "The Local Community: A Survey Approach," 46-60, In *Neighborhood and Ghetto: The Local Area in Large-Scale Society,* Edited by Scott Greer and Ann Lennarson Greer (New York: Basic Books, Inc. Publishers, 1974), 57.

4.4.3 Logan

The Community

Logan is located in North Philadelphia centered on Broad Street. Originally an area of estates when created in the 1720s, the community took its name from James Logan, William Penn's secretary.[89] Well before its 2008 library crisis, the neighborhood had a long history of community cooperation. In the early 1900s, the Logan Improvement League was very active and helped to shape the layout of the neighborhood, including the Logan branch library.[90] Logan has progressively grown to be an African American neighborhood; the population of 25,130, is now more than 75% African-American. It is predominantly made up of housing owners who work in service areas. Of the residents, 25.4 percent are below the poverty line.[91]

The Library Branch

Like the Haddington library, the Logan library's community doesn't always recognize the building as a library. Partly this is because of the transient community. Librarians have noticed that the parents of their child patrons move a substantial amount. And there are nearby institutions that

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[89] Free Library of Philadelphia, "Logan Branch: Community Profile," 1996.

[90] Logan Improvement League, *Loganites Newsletter* 1 (December 1916), Accessed July 26, 2010. Main Branch, Free Library Director's Vault.

[91] Urban Mapping, "Logan Neighborhood in Philadelphia," City-Data.com, Accessed September 3, 2010, http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Logan-Philadelphia-PA.html.

are temporary residences, such as a domestic violence home. These account for some residents new to the library in past years.

On the other hand, before 2008 many residents of the community knew of the library and chose not to use its facilities, believing it unsafe and with a derelict interior. On many parents' first visits to the library, the librarians hear comments such as, "oh, it's so much nicer in here than I expected" and, "well, this is a pretty bad neighborhood." Librarians consequently suspect that residents avoided the library because they did not think of the library as a safe clean, nice, and comforting location. Because some of the shops and buildings in the area are rundown, many library visitors expect a building in disrepair with unsanitary conditions. With small touches, such as vibrant holiday and seasonal decorations, and an energetic and warm feeling from staff, the librarians, however, keep the library as nice as possible. The majority of visitors are children, either afterschool or during summer, looking for homework help or a place to pass the time.

After extensive press about the threatened closing, many residents visited the library for the first time and saw a lovely library they did not know. Some first time visitors decided to see the library before it closed; others found inviting images in the newspapers and came in. After all the press in 2008, librarians have seen an increase in the number of parents accompanying their children to the library; they particularly note the greater number of fathers joining their children at the library. Because the staff

believe that the "success of a library is based on the development of library users," they feel the future of the library is bright.[92]

Logan librarians hope increased parental attendance will create a tradition of using the library that persists across generations. Parents of today will bring their children to the library, and their children will bring their children, and so on. The librarians noted that "many high circulation library[ies] have [such] an established pattern," such as the Northeast Regional branch.[93] This would counteract the impact of a transient population by establishing a lifelong habit of going to the library. Once parents are in the library, believe the librarians, then they will see how nice it is, may see a book, then even a movie and more. Librarians are trying to help parents to see the great opportunities at their local Logan library.

As is the case with the Haddington branch, the Logan librarians believe a new sign will help draw in the community. With their Friends group, they are looking into the price for an electric sign, which could display upcoming events and programs, in addition to its name. Thus far, their greatest advertisement comes from word of mouth, but many programs and benefits are still underutilized, such as free family passes for the Please Touch Museum. Logan librarians hope an electric sign will suggest a library

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[92] Logan Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 26, 2010.

[93] Logan Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 26, 2010.

full of activity and remove inaccurate perceptions of the library in the community.

4.4.4 Holmesburg

The Community

Located in Northeast Philadelphia along the Deleware River, Holmesburg reportedly got its name when a relative of Thomas Holme, William Penn's surveyor general of Pennsylvania, advertised a piece of land in "Holmesburg" rather than in "Washington," its name.[94] Covering 6.285 square miles and holding 26,384 people, the area has only one third of the average population density of Philadelphia. About 62 percent of the residents are white and about twenty-five percent are black, followed in number by Hispanic and Asian. Holmesburg consists of relatively newer housing units, the majority built between 1970 and 1979.[95]

The Library Branch

In the Kingsessing, Haddington, and Logan libraries, assessing the impact of the historical designation is difficult to distinguish from the impact of press centering on the threatened closures. However, for the Holmesburg

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[94] Free Library of Philadelphia, "Holmesburg Branch: Community Profile," 1982.

[95] Urban Mapping, "Holmesburg Area in Philadelphia," City-Data.com, Accessed September 3, 2010, http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Holmesburg-Philadelphia-PA.html.

library, said the librarian, the historical designation of the library had a distinct effect on the community, increasing the interest in history of the Holmesburg area.

The threatened closures attracted attention from beyond the neighborhood. Preservationists from the National Park Service's HABS unit generated a HABS document with architectural drawings and the history of the building. As the HABS group told one librarian, the Holmesburg library is a "quintessential Carnegie Library."[96] It follows exactly the T-shaped plan and follows exactly the recommendations put forward by James Bertram, Carnegie's secretary.[97]

The outside attention aroused local community interest in the library building and its history. The community had already recognized the importance of their library for entertainment and education, but most had never viewed it as a connection to the neighborhood's past. The press accounts of both the threatened closing and the Preservation Alliance's nomination sparked a greater interest not only in the library but also the rest of Holmesburg's historical significance. Many looked to the librarians to help them learn more. After it was announced the library would remain open, and

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[96] Holmesburg Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 24, 2010. HABS stands for the Historic American Buildings Survey. It is a program of the National Park Service that documents historic buildings, including measured drawings, photographs, and written historical reports. This is one method of retaining architectural history in print rather than historical preservation.

[97] Holmesburg Librarian, Interviewed by author, Philadelphia, PA, August 24, 2010.

the library was placed on the local historic register, the library and community continued to cultivate interest in the history of the library and the neighborhood.

The library possesses a very unique local history section that contains manuscripts and other documents from the early history of Holmesburg. To accommodate the increased attention in this collection, the librarians moved it from storage to the main floor. With help from the Friends of the Holmesburg Library, the library obtained a glass display case to showcase some parts of the collection. While other branches of Philadelphia also have local history sections, they rarely contain primary sources specific to their immediate region of the city. In addition to interest from the general public, students and researchers in the past year have come to the Holmesburg library to see the building and use the local history collection. It has gained a wider reputation for its sources about Philadelphia's history. The historical designation brought greater attention to the Holmesburg library and increased local and citywide interest in the history of the area.

As with the Haddington, Logan and Kingsessing branch, the Holmesburg librarians were unaware of the full implications of historical designation. They learned late in the process about the restrictions on the property after its designation. Placement on the register means they must submit for approval all repairs and renovations that impact the exterior of the building. One issue arose when a local art group wanted to place modern statues around the library property. They were in contact with the branch

manager, who informed them that as a historical property, these statues would not accent the historical significance of the building, and she had to reject their proposal. She mentioned that such sacrifices are "worth the trade off to have the designation," because it has benefitted the life of the library and community in so many other ways.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

The impact of historical designation on the four library branches varied and could be difficult to isolate from other causes, but in no accounts were librarians or residents dissatisfied that their branch was placed on the local register. The placement brought pride to the community and helped to revitalize the local image of the library.

The conversations with the librarians suggest that the designation on the Philadelphia Register generally had a beneficial impact on the libraries and their communities in two recognizable ways: increased attendance and interest in local history. All four branches saw an increase in attendance during 2009. While these statistics cannot be fully attributed to the historical designation, the register designation and wider recognition of the libraries' historical significance contributed to the increase in new patrons. Other reasons for the increase in attendance could have been for a number of reasons: increase in community population and the publicity about a library's closure. Both the Haddington and Logan branch librarians are optimistic that new and more visible signs will increase patronage further.

The greater interest in local history, as a consequence of the historical designation, was most visible in the Holmesburg library. Residents have made substantial use of the local history collection, which earlier was nearly unheard of. As the collection's reputation grew, it brought researchers and students to Holmesburg from other neighborhoods to see both the building

and reference collection. The positive impact of the historical designation has been most extensive for the Holmesburg library among the four libraries in this study. As one Holmesburg librarian put it, the designation "gives a sense of pride in the community, because they feel somewhat protective of their branch," and its historical status.

In the case of the four libraries, historical designation had no downside, suggesting that the remaining Carnegie libraries in Philadelphia would benefit from register status. The Preservation Alliance has already begun the nominations. The early findings in this study suggest that librarians and communities around the country have much to gain by placing their Carnegie libraries on historic registers. In these four poor urban areas, it helped give new meaning to their libraries.

Because the budget situation of the Free Library of Philadelphia in 2008 was drastic, the story of library closures and historic designations meld into one. If the historic designations of these four libraries occurred at a different time, their impact might be more discernible. One main conclusion is that significant publicity should accompany a historical nomination. In 2008, communities rediscovered the history of their libraries. Events like Logan's "Celebration of Life," a program to highlight the history of the library, revitalized the community's memory and appreciation. Many residents had forgotten about the library and its programs until they were in jeopardy. When future historical nominations occur, the publicity should go beyond announcing the nomination and also include ways to highlight and teach the

history of that branch. The historic designations renewed the spirit of the library.

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APPENDIX A: PHILADELPHIA'S CARNEGIE BRANCHES

Images Courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1917 Annual Report and http://libwww.library.phila.gov/branches/brnlist.cfm

25 Carnegie Library Branch Name and Details		***Image***
1	**Chestnut Hill**	
	Address: 8711 Germantown Avenue *Construction:* Opened January 22, 1909 *Site:* 117' x 197' x 81' x 194' *Donor:* Christian Hall Library Association *Architect:* Cope and Stewardson *Cost:* $43,636 *Notes:* Originally named the Christian Hall Library Branch	
2	**Cobbs Creek**	
	Address: 5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway *Construction:* Opened December 30, 1925 *Site:* 82' x 84' *Donor:* City *Architect:* Edmund B. Gilchrist *Cost:* $64,267 *Notes:* Renamed in 1990 the Blanche A. Nixon/Cobbs Creek Branch	
3	**Falls of Schuylkill**	
	Address: 3501 Midvale Avenue, Midvale Ave and Warden Drive *Construction:* Opened November 18, 1913 *Site:* 190' x 96' *Donor:* Warden Estate and William H. Merrick *Architect:* Rankin Kellogg & Crane *Cost:* $50,273	- 

4	**Frankford**	
	Address: 4634 Frankford Avenue *Construction:* Opened October 2, 1906 *Site:* 150' x 66' *Donor:* T. Comly Hunter *Architect:* Watson and Huckel *Cost:* $60,900 *Notes:* The building underwent major interior and exterior renovations in 1959.	
5	**Germantown**	
	Address: Vernon Park *Construction:* Opened June 24, 1907 *Site:* 100' x 150' *Donor:* City *Architect:* Frank Miles Day *Cost:* $69,098	
6	**Greenwich**	
	Address: Fourth and Shunk Street *Construction:* Opened June 26, 1929 *Site:* 93' x 84' *Donor:* City (Rec center) *Architect:* Philip H. Johnson *Cost:* $116,990	
7	**Haddington**	
	Address: 446 North 65th Street *Construction:* Opened December 3, 1915 *Site:* 150' x 150' *Donor:* Alex Simpson Jr *Architect:* Albert Kelsey *Cost:* $57,100	

8	**Kingsessing**	
	Address: 1201 South 51st Street *Construction:* Opened November 29, 1919 *Site:* 100' x 100' *Donor:* City (Rec center) *Architect:* Philip H. Johnson *Cost:* $112,980 *Notes:* 22nd Carnegie Library	
9	**Lehigh Avenue**	
	Address: 601 West Lehigh Avenue, Lehigh Avenue and Sixth Street *Construction:* Opened November 20, 1906 *Site:* 200' x 184' *Donor:* City *Architect:* G. W. and W. D. Hewitt *Cost:* $111,290 *Note:* Renamed Lillian Marrero Branch	
10	**Logan**	
	Address: 1333 Wagner Avenue, Wagner and Old York Road *Construction:* Opened November 16, 1918 *Site:* 224' x 245' x 324' *Donor:* City (purchased) *Architect:* John T. Windrim *Cost:* $86,876	
11	**Manayunk**	
	Address: Fleming and Dupont Street *Construction:* Opened February 5, 1909 *Site:* 100' x 136' *Donor:* John F. L. Morris *Architect:* Benjamin R. Stevens *Cost:* $48,183 *Notes:* Sold in 1969 when the Roxborough Branch opened.	

12	**McPherson Square**	
	Address: 601 East Indiana Avenue, Indiana and F Street *Construction:* Opened May 25, 1917 *Site:* 150' x 150' *Donor:* City (public park) *Architect:* Wilson Eyre and McIlvain *Cost:* $60,448	
13	**Nicetown**	
	Address: 1715 Hunting Park Avenue, Hunting Park and Wayne Avenue *Construction:* Opened June 29, 1917 *Site:* 113' x 108' *Donor:* City (purchased) *Architect:* John T. Windrim *Cost:* $60,229 *Notes:* 12th Carnegie Funded Library, Moved to 3720 North Broad Street and Renamed Nicetown-Tioga	
14	**Oak Lane**	
	Address: 6614 North 12th Street, Oaks Lane and 12th Street *Construction:* Opened December 7, 1911 *Site:* 150' x 148' x 132' x 111' *Donor:* Trustees of the Oak Lane Library Association *Architect:* Ralph E. White *Cost:* $57,325	
15	**Paschalville**	
	Address: 6942 Woodland Avenue, 70th and Woodland *Construction:* Opened April 20, 1905 *Site:* 188' x 65' x 67' *Donor:* City (purchased) *Architect:* Henry C. Richards *Cost:* $52,905 *Notes:* 17th Carnegie Funded Library	

16	**Passyunk**	
	Address: 1935 Shunk Street, 20th and Shunk *Construction:* Opened April 21, 1914 *Site:* 160' x 135' *Donor:* Stephen Girard Estate *Architect:* John T. Windrim *Cost:* $46,509 *Notes:* In 2004 renamed the Thomas F. Donatucci, Sr. Branch	
17	**Richmond**	
	Address: 2987 Almond Street, Indiana and Almond St *Construction:* Cornerstone laid in 1908, Opened March 15, 1910 *Site:* 140' x 150' *Donor:* Anne W Penfield *Architect:* Edward Lippincott Tilton *Cost:* $55,492	
18	**South Philadelphia (Fumo Family)**	
	Address: 2437 Broad Street Broad and Ritner Streets *Construction:* Opened November 24, 1914 *Site:* 108' x 80' *Donor:* City (purchased) *Architect:* C. L. Borie *Cost:* $42,970 *Notes:* Later named the Ritner Children's branch and currently known as the Fumo Family Branch. It closed when the Free Library built the South Philadelphia branch, but the community requested it be re-opened as a children's library again. It is the only Philadelphia library exclusively for children.	

19	**Southwark**	
	Address: Fifth and Ellsworth Street *Construction:* Opened November 15, 1912 *Site:* 64' x 60' *Donor:* Young Men's Institute *Architect:* D. K. Boyd *Cost:* $51,489 *Notes:* Renamed in 2004 to the Charles Santore Branch.	
20	**Spring Garden**	
	Address: Seventh and Spring Garden *Construction:* Opened November 18, 1907 *Site:* 80' x 99' *Donor:* Baldwin Locomotive Works: Burnham, Williams and Co. *Architect:* Field and Medary *Cost:* 77,333	
21	**Tacony**	
	Address: 6742 Torresdale Avenue, Torresdale and Knorr Street *Construction:* Opened November 27, 1906 *Site:* 109' x 180' *Donor:* Jacob S. Disston *Architect:* Lindley Johnson *Cost:* $43,382	
22	**Thomas Holme (Holmesburg)**	
	Address: 7810 Frankford Avenue *Construction:* Opened June 26, 1907 *Site:* 100' x 158' *Donor:* Trustees of Lower Dublin Academy *Architect:* Stearns and Castor *Cost:* $36,858	

23	**West Philadelphia**	
	Address: 201 South 40th Street (originally 3948-50 Walnut St) *Construction:* Opened June 26, 1906 *Site:* 133' x 50' *Donor:* Clarence H. Clark *Architect:* Clarence Clark Zantzinger *Cost:* $80,387 *Notes:* First funded Carnegie library of Philadelphia. Now called the Walnut Street West Branch.	
24	**Wissahickon**	
	Address: Manayunk Avenue and Osborn St *Construction:* Opened January 26, 1909 *Site:* 100' x 100' *Donor:* Pencoyd Iron Works *Architect:* Whitfield and King *Cost:* $41,803 *Notes:* Burned to the ground sometime before 1970	
25	**Wyoming**	
	Address: 231 East Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming Avenue and B Street *Construction:* Ground broken March 1, 1930, Opened October 29, 1930 *Site:* 94' x 84' *Donor:* City (Rec Center) *Architect:* Philip H. Johnson *Cost:* $122,630 *Notes:* Last funded Carnegie Library in Philadelphia	

APPENDIX B: PHILADELPHIA'S CARNEGIE LIBRARIES STILL IN USE TODAY

1. Chestnut Hill

2. Cobbs Creek

3. Falls of Schuylkill

4. Frankford

5. Haddington

6. Holmesburg

7. Kingsessing

8. Lehigh Avenue

9. Logan

10. McPherson Square

11. Oak Lane

12. Paschalville

13. Passyunk

14. Richmond

15. Ritner Children's (Fumo)

16. Tacony

17. Walnut Street West

18. Wyoming

APPENDIX C: PHILADELPHIA'S CARNEGIE BRANCHES NOT IN USE

1. Germantown

2. Greenwich

3. Manayunk – sold but the building still exists

4. Nicetown

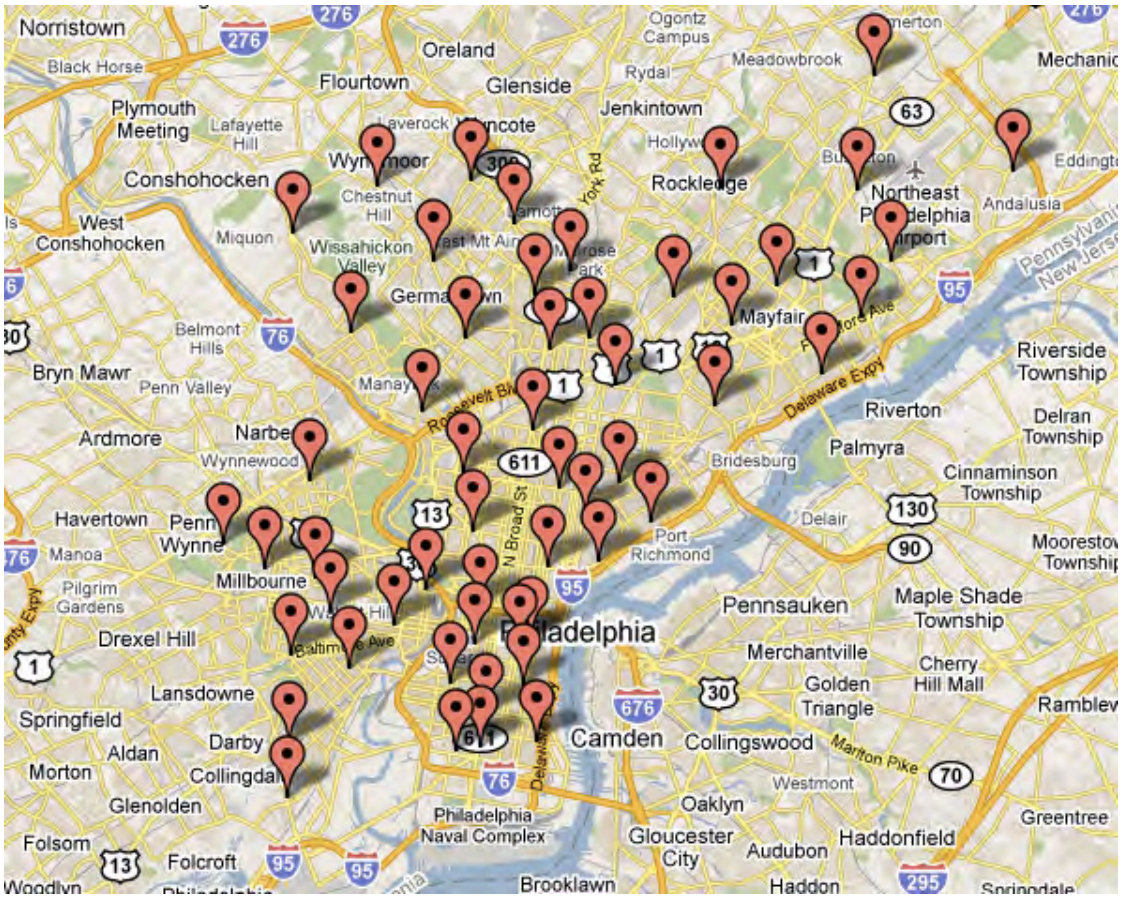
5. Southwark

6. Spring Garden

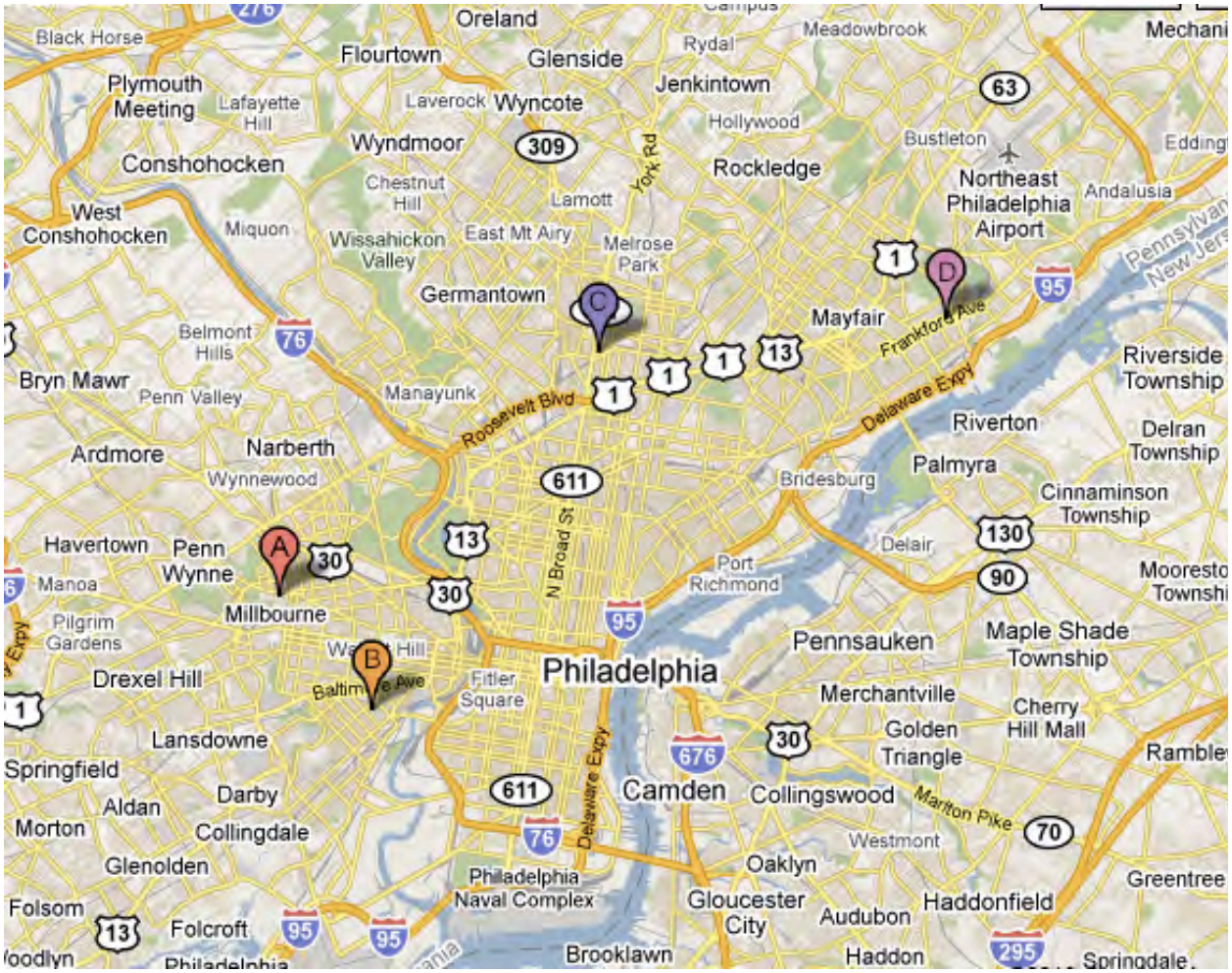
7. Wissahickon – burned to the ground before 1970

APPENDIX D: LOCATIONS OF ALL 54 FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA BRANCHES

Image courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia



APPENDIX E: LOCATIONS OF FOUR DESIGNATED BRANCHES



Key:

A – Haddington Branch

B – Kingsessing Branch

C – Logan Branch

D – Holmesburg Branch

APPENDIX F: WEST PHILADELPHIA BRANCH NOMINATION

NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with a Board of Revision of Taxes address)

Street address: 201 South 40th Street

Postal code: 19104 Councilmanic District: 27th District

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library

Common Name: Walnut Street West Branch of the Free Library

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Site ☐ Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: ☐ excellent ☒ good ☐ fair ☐ poor ☐ ruins

Occupancy: ☒ occupied ☐ vacant ☐ under construction ☐ unknown

Current use: Library

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached plot plan and written description of the boundary.

6. DESCRIPTION

See attached description of the historic resource.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Period of Significance (from year to year): 1905 to 1930

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1905-1906, 1960, 1998-2004

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Clarence Clark Zantzinger

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: William R. Dougherty

Original owner: Land donated by Clarence H. Clark to the City of Philadelphia's Free Library.

Other significant persons: Andrew Carnegie

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- ☒ (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- ☐ (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- ☐ (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- ☐ (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- ☒ (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- ☐ (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- ☐ (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- ☐ (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- ☐ (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- ☐ (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES See attached bibliography.

9. NOMINATOR

Name with Title: John Gallery, Executive Director Email: john@preservationalliance.com

Organization: Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia Date: June 28, 2010

Street Address: 1616 Walnut Street, Ste. 1620 Telephone: 215-546-1146

City, State, and Postal Code: Philadelphia, PA 19103

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

Form prepared by Karen Miller student of Drexel University and Ben Leech of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia with research provided by Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief, HABS, Washington, D.C. – HABS No. PA-6765

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt:_____

☐ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date:_____

Date of Notice Issuance:_____

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

City:_____ State:____ Postal Code:_____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation:_____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission:_____

Date of Final Action:_____

☐ Designated ☐ Rejected 3/16/07

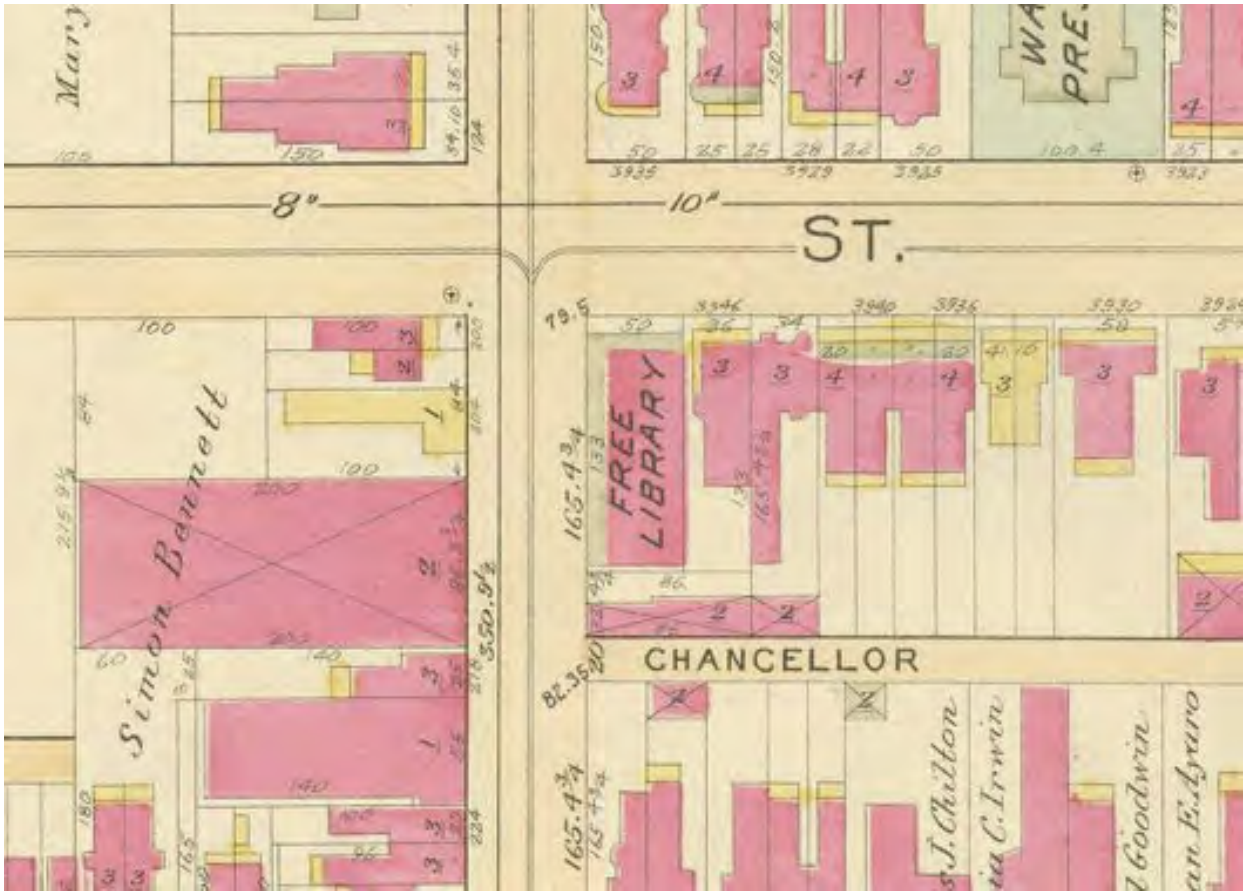
5. **Boundary Description:** West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia

201 South 40th Street

The West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library is located on the Southeast corner of 40th and Walnut Streets. The entrance and primary façade is located on 40th Street. From the corner of 40th and Walnut Streets the building extends 133' along 40th street, and 50' along Walnut Street. Today it is known as the Walnut Street West Branch, but is referred to as the West Philadelphia Branch in the remainder of this nomination.

See the attached satellite image of the location along with the Smith Atlas of 1909.

Map by Google Earth, June 2010



Atlas of the City of Philadelphia Wards 27 and 46.
Elvino V. Smith
Philadelphia, 1909

6. **Description** *West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia*

OVERVIEW

The West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia (201 South 40th Street) is a 1905 French Renaissance structure. The building is two stories high with the main entrance vestibule at the center of the 40th street side. It was the first and only Renaissance style Free Library of Philadelphia. The majority of Philadelphia's libraries were created in Beaux-Arts style.

In the main entrance vestibule can be found two plaques commemorating those who made the West Philadelphia Branch possible. One reads "This building was given to the City of Philadelphia by Andrew Carnegie Esq. To be used forever as the West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia MCMV [1905]" (photo #4) and the other "The land on which this building is erected was presented to the City by Clarence H. Clark Esq. For the West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia MCMV [1905]".

The library sits on ground level on its corner parcel approximately 133' x 50'. The 40th street side is approximately level at the base of the building from the Northwest to the Southwest Corner of the Building (photo #1). On the Walnut street side it is apparent that the street and sidewalk slopes downward from East to West (photo #2).

The building stands detached without any adjacent structures. On the East side of the building is a park with greenery and brick pathways (see satellite image). This park continues to the South side of the building with a graveled section containing seating. Small to large trees line the 40th street side of the library. Small, elevated gardens for plants and shrubs are located on the Walnut Street side (photo #2).

The roof is slightly pitched and is of newer construction from the 2001 renovation. The wood framing is unfinished and visible from the interior, and large square skylights pierce the roof (photo #5).

A balustraded parapet extends above on the North and West sides.

PRIMARY (FRONT) FAÇADE

The primary façade is along 40th Street and includes the entrance to the library. This façade contains five bays, with the main entrance located in the central, third, bay. The windows are raised above the height of the doorway in order to allow easy placement of bookshelves on the first floor. The doorway is within a low arched opening. Above the doorway is a window and a cartouche.

SECONDARY (SIDE) ELEVATIONS

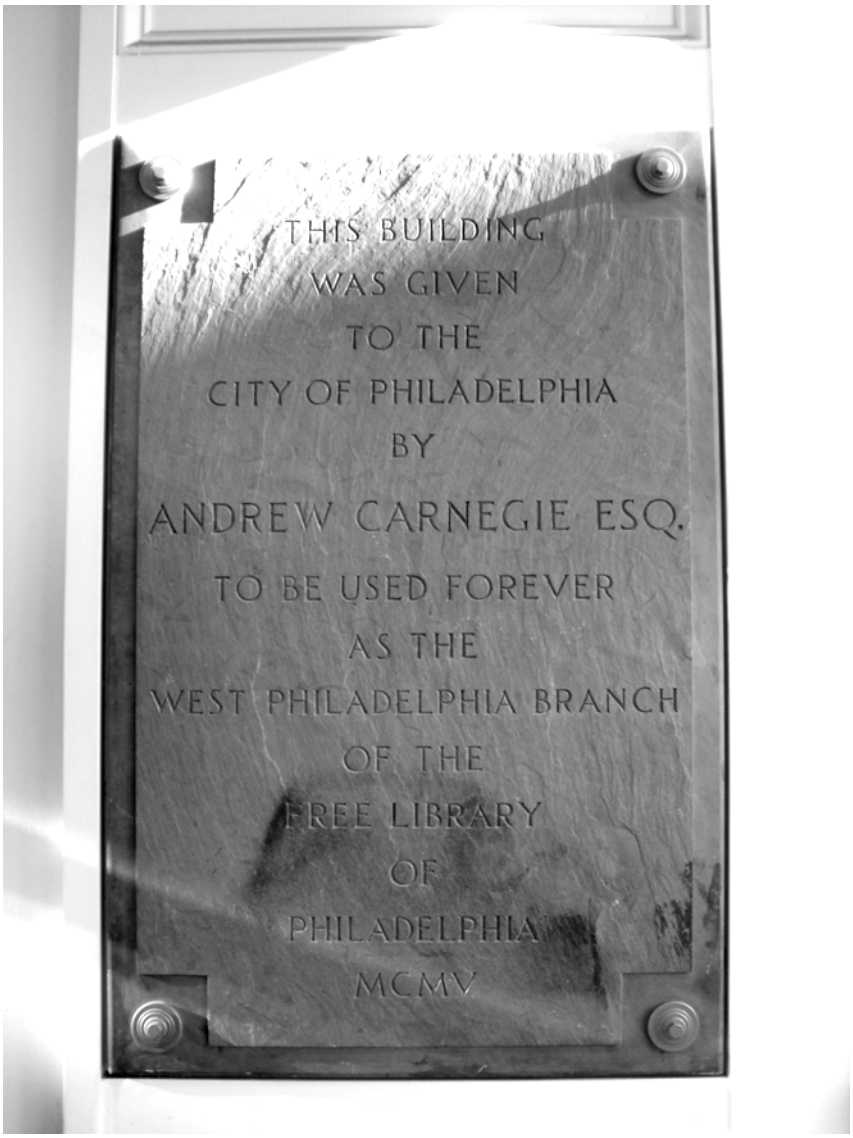
The East and South Elevations are unfinished stucco. It appears almost as though an adjacent structure was anticipated to abut the building, limiting the need for spending additional money on finishing. Terra cotta bricks extend from the 40th street side to the South elevation for about five courses (photo # 3). This is also the case at the Northeast corner of the building where about courses extend from the Walnut street side to the East side of the library. No windows are present on the East and South Elevations. A service entrance can be seen at the East end of the Southern Elevation. No windows are present on the East or South sides.

The North Elevation contains a large two-story bay window. This bay window was a later adjustment extending outfard from the original plan of the building. Originally, the main entrance was located along the North elevation and was moved in the 1960s to the 40th Street side and the bay window was constructed. At that time the library was located at 3948-50 Walnut Street.

1. West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library (201 S 40th Street). View from Southwest of West (primary) façade. Large format photography was undertaken for HABS (ref. NO-PA6765).

2. West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library (201 S 40th Street). View to South of North (secondary) façade. Large format photography was undertaken for HABS (ref. PA-6765).

3. West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Detail of the Southwest corner where terracotta leads to an unfinished stucco façade. Karen Miller June 2010.



4. West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library (201 S 40th Street). Detail of commemorative plaque on the Southern side of the entrance vestibule. Karen Miller June 2010.

5. West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library (201 S 40th Street).
Image of interior roof framing and skylights.
Karen Miller June 2010.

6. West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library (201 S 40th Street).
View from Northwest corner showing the primary and secondary façade. Large format photography was undertaken for HABS (ref. PA-6765).

7. **Statement of Significance** *West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia*

The West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia is a significant historic building in Philadelphia and should be listed individually on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places under criteria (a) and (e). For criteria (a), the building has significant interest or value as part of the City's development, the history of public libraries in the United States and its association with Pittsburgh industrialist Andrew Carnegie. It meets criteria (e) for its association with Clarence Clark Zantzinger, a Philadelphia native who was involved in the architecture of Philadelphia both at his own firm along with AIA, the T-Square Club, and his position as President of the City Parks Association.

Criteria A: The building has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth, and Nation and is associated with important individuals: Andrew Carnegie.

Andrew Carnegie's Library Program

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-born industrialist, businessman, and a major philanthropist during the Gilded Age, a time of vast industrial and population growth and a market disparity between wealth and poverty. His family immigrated to the U.S. when he was 12, his father a victim of the rapid industrialization of Britain's textile industry. The family settled in Allegheny, a suburb of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

As an adult, Carnegie spent more than a decade with the Pennsylvania Railroad before leaving to manage the Keystone Bridge Company, which was replacing wooden bridges with iron ones. By the 1870s he was concentrating on steel manufacturing, ultimately creating the Carnegie Steel Company, which he later merged with Elbert H. Gary's Federal Steel Company and several smaller companies to create U.S. Steel. In 1889, Carnegie wrote "The Gospel of Wealth" in which he proposed that wealthy men should live without extravagance and distribute their riches to benefit the welfare and happiness of the common man. His second essay, "The Best Friends for Philanthropy" recommended seven areas to which the wealthy man should donate: universities, libraries, medical centers, public parks, meeting and concert halls, public baths, and churches. Many of the organizations he founded continue their good works to this day, including the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

During his youth, while working as a messenger boy, Carnegie met Colonel James Anderson, who every Saturday would open his personal library to any young workers who wanted to borrow a book. Carnegie later said the colonel "opened the

windows through which the light of knowledge streamed" and this generosity set an example Carnegie vowed to follow if given the opportunity and means. Carnegie believed with the proper tools and good work ethic, anyone could be successful and libraries had the power to create an egalitarian society that favored hard work over social privilege. Hence public libraries, as a key to learning and socialization, became the focus of his charitable donations.

Carnegie was also proud to be the son of a library-founding weaver. Andrew Carnegie's father along with his fellow weavers combined funds to buy Dunfermline, Scotland's first circulating library.[1]

With this belief that the wealthy were obligated to give back to society, he set out to spend before his death the entire $400 million dollars he received through the sale of Carnegie Steel Company. He provided $40 million dollars for the constructions of over 1,600 libraries throughout the United States (46 states built Carnegie libraries) during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (and about 400 more internationally). Certain cities applied for large grants for multiple libraries. The largest of these went to New York City to support the construction of 76 libraries, 56 of which remain in use as libraries today. His second largest grant - $1.5 million – went to Philadelphia intended for the construction of 30 libraries, followed by grants to Cleveland (15), Baltimore (14) and Cincinnati (10). These endowments would have a profound effect on the perception of library services as a civic responsibility as well as the development of professional library standards and the evolution of the building type.

Initially Carnegie provided no specifications for architects designing branch libraries funded by his grants. However, there are few indications that an attempt was made by the Carnegie Fund Committee that implemented the library program to develop standard plans for the branch libraries. Among the most convincing is a reference in the minutes for 1904 to a solicitation made on the part of the Committee to the well-known Philadelphia architectural firm of Hewitt & Hewitt for a plan for an inexpensive library prototype:

> Mr. Edmunds [of the Carnegie Committee] reported that he had obtained from Messrs. Stevens and Edmunds, who are both employed in the office of Messrs. Hewitt, a plan showing what kind of building could, in their judgment, be erected for $30,000, the building to measure 60' x 40' and to be about 45' in height.[2]

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[1] Bobinski, George S. *Carnegie Libraries; Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1969, 12

[2] *Annual Reports of the Library Board,* 14 July 1904.

The brief specifications outlined for a building that is generally smaller and certainly less expensive than any of those actually built.

After 1908 Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram, began requiring that building plans be submitted for review before grant approval. The change came in response to what Bertram viewed as a number of poorly laid out or overly ornate libraries built with Carnegie funds. In 1911, Bertram published his "Notes", a guide to appropriate library design, with an emphasis on functionality over aesthetics in keeping with the American Library Association's research and developments in progressive library planning.

The Carnegie Grant in Philadelphia

In January 1903, Carnegie's secretary James Bertram responded to the Free Library of Philadelphia approving a grant of $1.5 million to finance the construction of 30 branch libraries. The grant was made explicitly for the construction of public libraries and required as a condition of the grant that the City provided the land for the libraries and funds for their operations. Because the unusual nature and size of the gift, an act of the State Legislature was required to enable the City to accept the gift. This was followed by an act of City Council in 1904 accepting the gift and its terms.

Previous to the idea of Carnegie's library grant, Philadelphia had begun plans to erect a central library, keeping branch libraries as a secondary initiative. A one million dollar loan was even taken out for the endeavor but problems arose when trying to secure a possible location for the branch. When Carnegie began speaking to Philadelphia librarian John Thompson about a grant, he felt the main library project was in capable hands. Rather Andrew Carnegie felt the "city needed a comprehensive system of branch libraries rather than one big central library …[as] branch libraries are really the popular institution."[3]

The libraries were built between 1905 and 1930, with the bulk of them constructed between 1905 and 1917. Due to rising costs only 25 libraries were built of which 19 remain in operation as libraries today. The first Carnegie-funded branch library to be completed in Philadelphia was West Philadelphia; the cornerstone was laid in 1905 and the library opened in June 1906. The last, and the last of all Carnegie libraries built in the United States, was the Wyoming Branch, which opened in 1930.

The libraries were all to be constructed on donated property. It was anticipated that the first of the Carnegie libraries in Philadelphia be built on the site donated by banker George C. Thomas.

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[3] "Steel Magnate Tenders Philadelphia $1,500,000 to Build Branches". *Philadelphia Inquirer,* January 7, 1903, 1 and 16.

The libraries were designed by a wide range of Philadelphia architects including such prominent architects as James Windrim, Albert Kelsey and Paul Cret, Cope & Stewardson, Clarence C. Zantzinger, Charles Borie, Watson & Huckel, found of Philadelphia's T-Square Club Lindley Johnson, and more.

Despite that fact that Philadelphia figures quite prominently on the timeline of American library history, it had no purpose-built libraries prior to the Carnegie endowment. Philadelphia had the nations first private subscription Library, known as the Library Company founded in 1731. It also was the home of America's first circulating library created by Benjamin Franklin. The American Library Association, now the oldest and largest library association in the world, was formed in Philadelphia in 1876 . The Free Library was established in 1891 placing Philadelphia among the first American cities to institute a non-subscription public library system to provide educational material and services to a wider array of citizens, particularly the city's burgeoning immigrant population.[4] As Library Board president J.G. Rosengarten stated in 1902, "Proprietary libraries have grown into valuable adjuncts to out other education institutions. None of them, however, serves the public as does the Free Library, providing good reading for our school children, for our industrious adult population, and for the city's useful employees, firemen and telegraph operators."[5] The civic tradition continues today with the advent of new technologies, providing computer and internet access to those unable to afford it.

Prior to Carnegie funding, the city's fourteen branch libraries, each started by interested local communities, were dependent on old mansions, storefronts or back rooms of commercial buildings and civic institutions for space. As library board president J. G. Rosengarten pointed out, "The [Carnegie] gift gave welcome relief for the expenses of rented rooms occupied by the branches and from much of the risk to which the collections were subjected in these temporary quarters."[6] Even the Central Branch of the Free Library was housed in existing buildings (including City Hall) prior to the completion of its permanent home in 1927.

The West Philadelphia Branch

In 1904 when the Carnegie gift was accepted, fourteen branches of the Free Library existed, and only two in city-owned buildings. The others were considered "ill-

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[4] In the early part of the 20th century Philadelphia's population experienced its largest numerical increase for any similar period before or since; the number of inhabitants grew by almost one third –from 1.293 million to 1.684 million. Russell Frank Weigley, Editor, *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History* (Barra Foundation Book, New York: W.W. Norton, 1982), 526

[5] Theodore Wesley Koch, *A Book of Carnegie Libraries* (New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1917), 85.

[6] Ibid

adapted to library purposes".[7] With Carnegie's letter on January 3, 1903 to the Free Library mentioning the donation of $1,500,000, many began to donate sites for possible libraries. The Free Libraries Annual Report in April of 1903 mentioned 15-20 sites had already been donated.

After the formal acceptance of the Carnegie grant and coordination with the city in 1904, it was possible to begin planning the design and construction of the library branches. The West Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library was chosen as the first to be constructed due to the limits of its rented property, the availability of nearby land, and its great popularity as a library branch. The West Philadelphia Branch opened on May 28th 1895 occupying three rooms on the ground floor of the West Philadelphia Institute at 40th Street and Ludlow Street. The Branch was relocated to 4105-09 Chestnut Street beginning in 1901 as rented from the Hamilton House. In 1903 it was the second largest Free Library branch, with 16,532 volumes, only second to the Wagner Institute Branch with 27,017 volumes.[8] It was also written that the use of the children's library increased threefold between 1902 and 1903.

The West Philadelphia Branch was the first of 25 Carnegie libraries built in Philadelphia. It was constructed on a plot donated to the city by local Clarence H. Clark, a West Philadelphia Banker and founder of the First National Bank and the Fidelity Trust Company. Clark was known as a library advocate, with a fine private library of his own. Architect Clarence Clark Zantzinger designed the library branch. It is unknown if his future partner C.L. Borie helped with the plans. Sets of drawings were sent to builders on September 23rd 1904. In these sets the building was described with a granite base and a superstructure of brick/terracotta. Proposals for bids were submitted by October 4th.[9] After review the contract for building was awarded to Mr. William R. Dougherty. The ground was broken followed by the laying of the cornerstone on April 26th 1905. In April the Free Library was informed that the West Philadelphia Branch's rented property was sold to the West Philadelphia Republican Club. Therefore the library needed to vacate the Hamilton House by July 15, 1905. This put the construction of the permanent West Philadelphia Branch as a priority for the Free Library trustees.

Clarence H. Clark died a short time before the completion of the library. It was dedicated and opened in June 27th 1906. The ceremony by the committee of trustees was held in honor of Mr. Clark. The library was opened with 20,000 volumes, and capable of double the capacity to allow future expansion of the

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[7] "Steel Magnate Tenders Philadelphia $1,500,000 to Build Branches". *Philadelphia Inquirer,* January 7, 1903, 1.
[8] 1902 annual report pg 9
[9] "Another Carnegie Library". *Philadelphia Inquirer.* September 23, 1904.

library.[10] The total cost for design and construction of the library amounted to just about $80,000.

The building underwent renovations in 1960 relocating the main entrance from the Walnut Street side to it s entrance now on 40th Street along with the installation of air conditioning.[11] Later from 1998-2004 the branch had extensive renovations due to water damage. During this alteration a second floor was added. The library is still in use today by residents and is now known as the Walnut Street West Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library.

Criteria E: Is the work of a designer or architect whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation

Architect Clarence Clark Zantzinger (1872-1954) designed the West Philadelphia Branch library. C.C. Zantzinger was a Philadelphia native, but was schooled at a private institution in Germany followed by St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. He received his civil engineering degree from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1892. After he returned to Philadelphia were he completed his Bachelor of Sciences in Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania in 1895. Following his architecture degree he studied at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in France in 1901.

He returned to the states in 1902 and designed as an architect for his own office from 1902-1930. In 1905 he partnered with Charles L. Borie to become the firm of Zantzinger & Borie. With the plans for the West Philadelphia branch library submitted in late 1903 it is unclear if Borie aided Zantzinger in its design. Borie had attended St. Paul's School and Architecture school along with Zantzinger. However Borie did not officially graduate with th UPenn class of 1892.

In 1910 the firm was expanded with yet another partner, Milton B. Medary. The firm became Zantzinger, Borie & Medary. However in 1929 Medary died and the firm returned to Zantzinger & Borie (Z&B).

Zantzinger is most well known for his preliminary work along with Borie and Horace Trumbauer on the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Additionally he received attention for the Modern Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Building also located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Furthermore Zantzinger is known for the Gothic Protestant Episcopal Divinity School in West Philadelphia.

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[10] "Handsome West Philadelphia Branch erected on ground given by Clarence H. Clark". *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 27, 1906.

[11] Free Library of Philadelphia Website, "Walnut Street West History". http://libwww.library.phila.gov/branches/history.cfm?loc=WAL (accessed June 7, 2010).

In addition to the works of his firm, Zantzinger was a member of Philadelphia's AIA chapter beginning in 1903, becoming a fellow in 1911, and acting as the president at one time. He was also involved in the T-Square Club as the director of its education committee.

In 1917 he was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as the US representative for the war trade board in Sweden.

He later finished his career as with the Parks department. He served on the National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission and finally as the President of the City Parks Association in Philadelphia.

Clarence Clark Zantzinger is a significant architect of Philadelphia, beginning his life here as a native and ending his career here with the City Parks Association. He was very involved with local organizations such as the AIA and T-Square club, so his impact was not just with projects through his firm of Zantzinger, Zantzinger & Borie, or finally Zantzinger, Borie & Medary.

The West Philadelphia Branch library merits listing on the Philadelphia Register as the work of a prominent Philadelphia architect and urban planner, Clarence C. Zantzinger.

8. **Major Bibliographical References**
West Philadelphia Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia

The records of the Free Library of Philadelphia are located at the Central Library on Vine Street. The *Annual Reports* are located in the Municipal Reference Division, Cities P53-1154.

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Van Slyck, Abigail. *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries &American Culture, 1890-1920.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

"Will Bid Upon Two Carnegie Branches; contractors will submit proposals on Monday for Library buildings at sixth and Lehigh Avenue and in West Philadelphia", *Philadelphia Inquirer,* October 1, 1904, 6.